1	2
Jharkhand	Bokaro
	Chatra
	Dhanbad
	Dumka
	Garwa
	Giridih
	Godda
	Gumla
	Hazaribagh
	Jamtara
	Kodarma
	Latehar
	Lohardagga
	Pakaur
	Palamu
	Ranchi
	Sahibganj
	Saraikela
	Simdega
	Pachhim Singhbhum
Karnataka	Bidar
	Chitradurga
	Davanagere
	Gulbarga
	Raichur
Kerala	Palakkad
	Waynad
Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat
	Barwani
	Betul
	Chhattarpur
	Dhar
	Dindori
	Jhabua
	Khandwa (East Nimar)

1	2
	Mandla
	Satna
	Seoni
	Shahdol
	Shepour
	Shivpuri
	Siddhi
	Tikamgarh
	Umaria
	West Nimar (Khargone)
Maharashtra	Ahmednagar
	Amrawati
	Aurangabad
	Bhandara
	Chandrapur
	Dhule
	Gadchiroli
	Gondya
	Hinoli
	Nanded
	Nandurbar
	Yawatmal
Manipur	Tamenkxig
Meghalaya	South Garo Hills
	West Garo Hills
Mizoram	Lawngtlai
	Saiha
Nagaland	Mon
Orissa	Bolangir
	Boudh
	Debagarh
	Dhenkanal
	Gajapati
	Ganjam

1	2
	Jharsuguda
	Kalahandi
	Keonjhar
	Koraput
	Malkangiri
	Mayurbhanj
	Nabarangpur
	Nuapada
	Phulbani
	Rayagada
	Sambalpur
	Sonepur
	Sundargarh
Punjab	Hoshiarpur
Rajasthan	Banswara
	Dungarpur
	Jhalawar
	Karauli
	Sirohi
	Udaipur
Sikkim	North Sikkim
Tripura	Dhalai
Tamil Nadu	Dinidigul
	Nagapattinam
	Sivagangai
	South Arcot/Cuddalore
•	Tiruvannamalai
	Villupuram
Uttaranchal	Chamoli
	Champawat
	Tehri Garhwal
Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh
	Banda

1	2
	Barabanki
	Chandauli
	Chitrakoot
	Fatehpur
	Gorakhpur
	Hamirpur
	Hardoi
	Jalaun
	Jaunpur
	Kaushambi
	Kushinagar Lakhimpur
	Kheri Lalitpur
	Mahoba
	Mirzapur
	Pratapgarh
	Raebareli
	Sitapur
	Sonebhadra
	Unnao
West Bengal	South 24 Parganas Bankura
	Birhbhum Jalpaiguri V
	Malda
	Murishidabad Purulia
	Dakshin Dinajpur
	MidnapurWest Uttar
	Dinajpur

Statement-ll

Funds Released Under Nrega (Including NFFWP Funds)

SI. No.	Name of the States	Total Release (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	24099.78
2	Arunachal Pradesh	450.26
3	Assam	13292.65
4	Bihar	41411.75
5	Chattisgarh	23966.35
6	Gujarat	6026.85
7	Haryana	1030.72
8	Himachal Pradesh	1236.75
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1410.46
10	Jharkhand	44983.7
11	Karnataka	6030.67
12	Kerala	864.59
13	Madhya Pradesh	44676.77
14	Maharashtra	18985.16
15	Manipur	914.78
16	Meghalaya	1469.12
17	Mizoram	772.89
18	Nagaland	532.86
19	Orissa	49265.3
20	Punjab	1221.32
21	Rajasthan	11026.58
22	Sikkim	552.78
23	Tamil Nadu	9272.59
24	Tripura	2604.92
25	Uttaranchal	1595.8
26	Uttar Pradesh	23670.61
27	West Bengal	22120.2
	Total	**353486.21**

Concentration of Pak supported militants

†*72. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large concentration of Pak supported terrorists on the Bangladesh border adjoining border areas of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that indications of linkage of attack on International Science Conference held in Bangalore with Bangladesh have been received;

(c) if so, the action to be taken by Government in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the measures being taken by Government to deal with the possibilities of attack by terrorists on economic bases of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No such inputs have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Investigation so far carried out in connection with the terrorist shootout in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore does not reveal any linkage with Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The States are advised from time to time to take immediate steps to streamline physical and protective security, wherever required, of vital installations and important establishments including the economic infrastructure. In order to tackle the activities of terrorist organizations, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach by strengthening the border management to check illegal cross border activities, gearing up intelligence machinery, close interaction between different agencies of the Centre and the State Governments, neutralizing plans of militants and anti-national elements by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc. The Central Government has been sensitizing the State Governments about the threat perception and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

activities of terrorist organizations from time to time. Besides, bilateral and multilateral steps are taken to counter such activities.

Intelligence failure regarding Naxal attacks

*73. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during December, 2005 although Naxalites and Maoists attacks in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, etc. were countered by respective States Police, there seemed to be an intelligence failure as the intensity and frequency of such attacks indicate;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Home Affairs is evolving a concerted and well co-ordinated approach to deal with this growing Naxal menace; and

(c) if so, the details thereof[7]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) While the naxal affected States have stepped up their police response to counter the naxal violence, these States have been asked to improve intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms to combat this menace more effectively.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view that naxalism is not merely a law & order problem, the Union Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to address this menace simultaneousiy on political, security and development fronts in a holistic and coordinated manner

Committee for acquisition of land for cantonments

†*74. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Committee or Board to decide prudently the requirement of land for cantonments or other defence related works or for acquiring land which is actually needed, as it is often seen that excessive land is acquired which remains unutilised for many years and is also not returned to its owners;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider upon setting up such a Committee?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Whenever there is a proposal to acquire land for defence requirements, a Board of Officers is constituted to recommend the requirement of land as per guidelines prescribed by the Government regarding scale of land authorization. Land is acquired according to requirement and authorization. However, since funds for executing various planned projects are not available in bulk, some of the areas which are otherwise zoned for various units/ installations remain vacant, possibly, giving an impression that the land is being unutilized.

(c) Does not arise.

Disappearance of cargo of explosives meant for BRO

*75. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed its probe into the reported disappearance of cargo explosives meant for use by Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan during its voyage;

(b) if so, the details of the probe findings; and

(c) whether the vessel MV EUGENIA involved in the transit of sensitive cargo had a history of misdeclaration of goods and loitering in the Bay of Bengal for almost a month last July?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government is conducting an investigation into the loss of the explosive consignment meant for use by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for its project in Afghanistan while it was being shipped from Mumbai to Afghanistan between 22nd and 23rd December, 2005. Six containers containing explosive cargo for the BRO were swept over board from the deck of the ship MV EUGENIA. The manufacturer of the explosives is M/s Premier Explosives Ltd. in accordance with the contractual conditions, the responsibility for the security, shipment, transportation, insurance and delivery to the Project in Afghanistan was that of the manufacturer. BRO

was merely the consignee of these goods. The vessel MV EUGENIA was hired by the manufacturer's shipping agent M/s Unimarine Agencies.

The ship was brought into Mumbai Anchorage on 23rd December, 2005. From the six containers, four have been extricated and their contents verified and found to be in order. Two containers are yet to be traced and the Navy is of the opinion that they may have merged with the wrecks of 2 ships, lying in the same area or drifted away. The four containers have been shifted to the premises of manufacturer M/s Premier Explosives for destruction.

MV EUGENIA had last visited Indian Ports in July to September 2005 and was carrying authorized explosives for the Indonesian Navy. It was reportedly attacked by pirates off Chittagong Port in Bangladesh. The vessel was inspected by various agencies including the Customs Department and the Cargo was certified as a legal consignment for Indonesia. The vessel on its own request was escorted at the time from Kolkata to the entrance of the Malacca Straits by the Indian Coast Guard and Naval Units.

Banning import of fish

*76. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether fish is being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fishery workers forum have demanded ban on import of fish; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The value of fish imports during 2004-05 is Rs. 40.92 crores, and during the first half of the current year (April 2005-September2005) is Rs. 14.67 crores.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received from fishermen's organizations for banning import of fish. Import of fish is mainly for the purpose of re-export after value addition. A small amount of fish is also

imported by the hotel sector, particularly of species and products that are not available in the country, which is meant to cater to the needs of tourists. The import of fish is very insignificant compared to the total fish produced in the country and also as compared to our own marine product exports. The imports of fish and fishery products are allowed only against a sanitary Import Permit (SIP).

Dumping of cheap goods

*77. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective system of monitoring against any sudden surge in imports of highly subsidized cheap agricultural products from developed countries has been put in place;

(b) if so, the details of such monitoring and inspection system of imports, including those under various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs); and

(c) how many cases of excessive dumping of cheap goods have been detected during the last five years and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) The Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items including agricultural products from developed countries. Provisions to take trade defence measures have been provided in the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement concluded with Singapore and the Free Trade Agreements being negotiated with Thailand and ASEAN. The trade defence measures allow India to take anti-dumping action in cases where dumping of goods take place. Provisions have also been made to initiate safeguard action where surge in imports due to preference in duty cases injury or threatens to cause injury to the domestic industry. Detailed Operational Certification Procedure (OCP) have also been developed which *inter-alia* allows the customs of the importing country to request for inspection of the site of manufacturing in the exporting country if there is suspicion of circumvention.

(c) Year-wise break up of anti-dumping cases during the last five years are as under:

Year	Number of cases initiated	No. of cases where definitive measures were imposed
2001-2002	30	21
2002-2003	30	21
2003-2004	14	11
2004-2005	12	07
2005-2006 (till 31.12.2005)	10	00

Excess supply in tea industry

*78. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the tea industry would be fraught with the challenge of excess supply as indicated in a recent Report of Food and Agriculture Organization; and

(b) if so, what strategy Government have evolved or propose to evolve to avoid a glut induced price crash in the next decade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The report of the Sixteenth Session of the Inter Governmental Group on Tea of the Food and Agriculture Organization held at Bali, Indonesia in July 2005 has noted the continuing imbalance between supply and demand of tea in the international market and has expressed concern at the implied continuing pressure on international tea prices which was expected to persist.

(b) The approach of the Tea Board has been to coordinate closely the production with increased consumption. Various steps are being taken to increase the demand, including generic promotion highlighting the health and lifestyle aspects of tea as a beverage. The domestic consumption of tea is expected to grow in the coming years. The Board is also taking measures to control indiscriminate growth in tea plantation areas. The focus during the 10th Plan period is on improvement of the quality and

productivity of tea and not on increasing the planting areas in traditional areas. The development schemes of the Tea Board are oriented to this objective. Tea Board is also taking various quality control measures with a view to removing poor quality teas, which unnecessarily add to the increased tea production, but not to value.

At present, the tea prices have shown marked improvement over the prices prevailing in 2005. Government has set up a Price Stabilization Fund, the benefits of which are available *inter alia* to small tea growers having holdings up to 4 hectares, with the objective of providing financial relief to small growers when the prices of tea fall below a specified level.

Air-worthiness of Jaguar Fighters

*79. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Indian Air Force have raised doubts about the air-worthiness of the Jaguar deep penetration strike fighters, manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and, reportedly, declined to fly the two Jaguars, delivered to the IAF recently at the Ambala airbase; and

(b) if so, the details of the operational/maintenance problems identified and steps being taken to rectify the snags?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indian Air Force (IAF) has not raised any doubts on the air-worthiness of the Jaguar aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL). The IAF did not decline to fly the two Jaguar aircraft recently ferried in by the IAF to the Ambala airbase.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

FDI in retail sector

†*80. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed 51 per cent FDI in retail market under which single branded goods would be sold;

(b) if so, whether Government have defined single branded retail; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the goods which would be sold to Indian consumers by foreign companies through their outlets in Indian retail market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 51% with prior Government approval, only in the retail trade of 'Single brand' products. The guidelines notified, *vide* Press Note 3 (2006 Series), *inter alia,* provide that:

(i) Products to be sold should be of 'Single Brand only;

(ii) Products should be sold under the same brand internationally; and

(iii) 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Restructuring Plan for State Trading Corporation

306. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) having come out of the shadow of disinvestments, whether the State Trading Corporation is chalking out any restructuring plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether STC is thinking of strengthening its overseas markets which it has lost since its offices closed abroad;

(d) whether the STC is carrying out any study on the restructuring and opening up of new offices abroad, external trade, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Restructuring is an ongoing process taking into account the changes in the factors relating to composition and direction of trade.

(c) STC maintains its prominent presence in the international market through long-term relationship with trading partners, and regular interaction with business associates, trade associations, commodity exchanges etc. through use of modern technology.

(d) STC has no plans to open overseas offices in the immediate future.

(e) Does not arise.

Indo-Pak JETCO meeting

307. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that a meeting of UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) place recently in London;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations and proposals that emerged out of the meeting.

(c) whether Government have any proposals to set up similar committees with any other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir. The India UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee met at London.

(b) The JETCO meeting deliberations included ways and means of enhancement of bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Business led working groups on Agribusiness, Healthcare, High technology and Infrastructure, also held their meetings.

(c) and (d) The Government has in place various institutional arrangements including Joint Commissions/Committees with its trading partners to increase and diversify trade and economic relations on a mutually beneficial and balanced basis. Proposals to set up such mechanisms are taken up from time to time when the need is mutually recognized.

Pending SEZ proposals from private sector

308. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals from private sector for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been pending with Government for long;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals pending as on December, 31,2005 and since when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The proposals for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) received upto 15.11.2005 by the Central Government were considered in the Board of Approval in the meeting held on 25.11.2005 and cleared as per the norms. Subsequently, 33 proposals for setting up SEZs were received upto 31st December, 2005 and the details of these proposals are as under:—

Sl.	Name of the developer	Type of SEZ	Location of the SEZ
1.	M/s. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Textiles	Kagal, Maharashtra.
2.	M/s. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	rT/TTES	Pune, Maharashtra.
3.	M/s. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Pharmaceuticals	Krushnoor, Distt. Nanded, Maharashtra.
4.	M/s. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Agro sector	Latur, Maharashtra.
5.	M/s. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Bio-Technology	Jalna, Maharashtra.
6.	M/s. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Automobile and related services	Shendre, Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
7.	M/s. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Textiles	Butibori, Distt. Nagpur, Maharashtra.
8.	M/s. Mahindra Gesco Ltd.	IT/ITES	Jaipur, Rajasthan.
9.	M/s. Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Textiles Garments	Chhata, Distt. Mathura, UP.
10.	M/s. Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	Chhata, Distt. Mathura, UP.
11.	M/s. Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited.	IT/ITES	Sholinganallur, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
12.	Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited.	IT/ITES	Vilankurichi, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
13.	M/s. Dewan Investment Pvt. Ltd.	Multi product	Vasai, Dist. Thane, Maharashtra.
14.	M/s. STM Electronics Pvt. Ltd.	IT/ITES	Nokia, UP.
15.	M/s. Roseview promoters Pvt. Ltd.	Garments and Home Textiles	Gurgaon, Haryana.
16.	M/s. Vipul Infrastructure Developers Ltd.	IT/ITES	Fazilpur Village and Behrampur Village, Haryana
17.	M/s. Unitech Haryana SEZ Ltd.	Multi-product SEZ	Sonepat-Kundli, Haryana.
18.	M/s. Essar Hazira SEZ Pvt. Ltd.	Multi product	Choryasi-Distt. Hazira, Gujarat.
19.	M/s. Primal Projects Pvt. Ltd.	IT/ITES	Belandur Village, Hubli, Karnataka.
20.	M/s. Jubliant Organosys Ltd.	Pharmaceuticals, Biotech and Chemical Research	Mysore, Karanataka
21.	M/s. Weikfield IT Citi Info Park	IT/ITES	Pune, Maharashtra.
22.	M/s. MFAR Holdings Pvt. Ltd.	IT/ITES	Bangalore, Karnataka.
23.	M/s. Ripple Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd	IT/ITES	Nokia, UP.
24.	M/s. Satyam Computer Services Ltd.	IT/ITES	Thotlakonda, Visakhapatnam, A P.

Sl. No.	Name of the developer	Type of SEZ	Location of the SEZ
25.	M/s. Satyam Computer Services Ltd.	IT/ITES	Resapuvanipalem, Visakhapatnam,. A. P.
26.	M/s. Satyam Computer Services Ltd.	IT/ITES	Hyderabad, A.P.
27.	M/s. Satyam Computer Services Ltd.	IT/ITES	Mahabalipuram, Near Chennai, Tamil Nadu
28.	M/s. Satyam Computer Services Ltd.	IT/ITES	Hyderabad, A.P.
29	M/s. DLF Unviersal Ltd.	Multi-product SEZ	Ludhiana, Punjab.
30.	M/s. Uppal Housing Ltd.	IT/ITES IT/ITES	Gurgaon, Haryana.
31.	M/s. K. Raheja Corp. Pvt. Ltd.	IT/ITES	Yerawada, Pune,
32.	M/s K. Raheja Corp. Pvt Ltd		Maharashtra. Madhapur, Hyderabad, A.P.
33.	M/s. Apparels & Handlooms Exporters Association	Textiles	Sriperumbudur, Near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

(c) The above proposals have not yet been considered as the SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 were being put into force. The SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 have been operationalised on 10.2.06. The Board of Approval has been constituted under the SEZ Act, 2005 and the pending proposals will be placed before the Board of Approval for its consideration.

Steps to rejuvenate industries in Punjab

309. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industry in Punjab State is showing signs of decline;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to rejuvenate the industry in Punjab particularly the Small Scale and tiny industry; and

(d) the number of new industrial units set up during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major schemes put in place by the Central Government for development of small scale and tiny industries relate to enterpreneurial development, infrastructure development, technology upgradation, marketing and improving the flow of credit. The Ministry of Small Scale Industries has launched with effect from 10th August, 2005, a 'Policy Package for stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises'.

As per information received from the Government of Punjab, the State Government has brought in the new industrial Policy 2003 with effect from 1st April 2003. Major steps to rejuvenate, modernise and enhance competitiveness of industries taken under this policy include 30% capital subsidy (maximum Rs. 30 lakh) to a new small scale units in border districts, and 25% capital subsidy (maximum of Rs. 25 lakh) for Light Engineering, Textile, Hosiery & Knitwear, Sport Goods and Agra & Food Processing units.

(d) The number of new industrial units set up (registered) in Punjab during 2003-04 was 729 and in 2004-05 was 798.

Increase in imports from China

310. SHRI T.T.V DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of goods from China has almost trippled during the last three years;

(b) if so, the major categories of goods imported and the regimes in India where they are sold more;

(c) whether any case of trade distortions and dumping has come to the knowledge of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The value of imports from China during the last three years is as under:

(US $ MILLION)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (P)
Import %age	2792.04	4053.23	6746.66
growth	+37.10	+45.17	+66.45

(Source DGCI&S) (P) - *Provisional*

The major categories of goods imported from China are electronic goods, coal, coke & briquettes, organic chemicals, electrical and other machinery, medicinal & pharmaceutical products and textile yarn, fabrics & made ups.

The regimes where these items are sold more are not available in this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) has initiated anti-dumping investigations into 86 cases involving China during the period from 1922 to 2006 so far. These cases relate to Chemicals and Petrochemicals, .Steel, Fibre and Yarn and Consumer Goods, etc.

Export of spices

311. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Spices Board made any sustained study on the potential for exports of various spices;

(b) if so, the details of the potential of their export, spice-wise;

(c) the details of any promotional activity undertaken by the Spices Board for exports in the current fiscal year;

(d) which foreign demand have been identified by the Spices Board;

(e) whether the Spices Board succeeded in obtaining any export orders during current financial year;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any of such spices are produced in bulk in Rajasthan; and

(h) if so, their names, production quantity and potential for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Spices Board has conducted a market study under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme of the Department of Commerce for export of Indian spice to the main stream US markets. A market study to assess the potential to improve the export of branded Indian cardamom in the Gulf region is also being done. The study has concluded that spices like black pepper, red pepper (chilli), cinnamon, cumin, ginger, turmeric, dehydrated garlic, oregano and poppy seed can be introduced under Indian brands in a phased manner in the mainstream segment, gourmet segment and private lable segment of the US market. Similarly, there is a large potential of Indian cardamom in the Gulf region.

(c) During the current year, the Spices Board has provided support for adoption of high tech and technology upgradation; setting up/upgradation of Quality Control Lab; International Standards Organisation (ISO)/Hazard Assessment and Critical Control Process (HACCP) Certification and packaging development to a number of beneficiaries. The Spices Board has also participated in international fairs along with exporters for export promotion of spices.

(d) The demand segments indentified by the Board are Vanilla, Herbal Spices, High Colour value chillies and all spices free of adulterants and with tolerable levels of aflatoxins, pesticide residues and contaminants.

(e) and (f) The Spices Board does not directly export spices. Spices Board promotes and facilitates export of Spices.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Cumin and Coriander are the major spices produced in Rajasthan. Rajasthan produced 69093 MTs and 169830 MTs of Cumin and Coriander respectively during 2004-05. There is a considerable potential for export of these spices.

Steps to counter Pakistan in rice exports

312. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rice exporters have approached Government

for notifying an "evolved" grade, a hybrid with a natural, area-specific Basmati as one of the patents, of Indian Basmati as "Super" in order to boost rice exports and counter Pakistan in rice exports;

(b) whether Government have examined the request and if so, with what result; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Rice exporters have requested the Government for notification of the 'Super' variety of rice as 'Basmati' rice. The request has been examined and recommended to Dapartment of Agriculture & Cooperation for necessary Notification under the Seeds Act 1966.

Free trade deal between India and European Union

313. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been raised by United Kingdom to have free trade deal between India and European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of countries with whom India has signed Free Trade Agreements; and

(d) the details of countries with whom India propose to have or expected to sign Free Trade Agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No formal proposal has been received from the United Kingdom which is a Member State of the European Union.

(c) India has signed Free Trade Agreements with Sri Lanka and Bhutan. India has signed a Framework Agreement for establishing FTA with Thailand. India has signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Singapore which, *inter alia,* includes FTA in the areas of trade in goods and services and investments. India is also a signatory to the South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement (SAFTA) and Framework Agreement on the

BIMSTEC FTA (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area) between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Framework Agreements for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement have also been signed with ASEAN, Thailand and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

(d) Possibilities of having Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements/Free Trade Agreements are being explored with Malaysia, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea and Chile. India and European Union have established a High Level Trade Group to study and explore ways and means to deepen and widen their bilateral trade and investment relationship.

Incentives for industralisation

314. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given a package of economic incentives and concessions to promote industrialisation in some States;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether some of the incentives have been withdrawn by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government had announced a New Industrial Policy for North-East (NEIP) on 24.12.1997. Thereafter, Special Packages of economic incentives and other concessions were notified for the States of Jammu & Kashmir on 14.06.2002; Sikkim on 23.12.2002; and Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal on 07.01.2003. Under these packages, various incentives/ concessions, for industrialization of these States, have been provided, which, *inter alia,* include excise exemption, income tax exemption and Central Capital Investment Subsidy. However, excise duty exemption in the States other than the North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir is available to the units set up or expanded on or before March 31,2007.

Trade deficit

†315. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased:

(a) whether the trade deficit of the country has started increasing again as a result of which economy is being adversely affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to correct the trade imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to provisional data of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, trade deficit of the country increased from US$ 22.8 billion during April-January 2004-05 to US$ 33.8 billion in April-January 2005-06. One of the important reasons for widening trade deficit during the current financial year has been the increase in oil-imports by 47 percent.

(c) There are no measures to restrict imports or artificially balance trade that may lead to dampening of the growth of the economy or resurgence of inflationary pressures. However, export promotion is constant endeavor of the Government and a number of measures have been taken recently to further boost export. These include, *inter-alia,* bringing into force the SEZ Act 2005 to trigger a larger flow of investment in infrastructure and productive capacity; setting up Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs); giving a major thrust to procedural simplification reduce transaction cost of exporters; and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India's comparative advantage.

PTA with Mauritius

316. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given its go-ahead to the Preferential Trading Arrangement with Mauritius as a part of the Comprehensive Commercial and Economic Partnership Agreement;

(b) if so, the details worked out in this regard; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE **AND** INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The text of the draft for the proposed **PTA,** Rules of Origin, the Operational Certifications Procedures and Wish Lists **have been** discussed by the two sides. The Empowered Negotiating **Team is scheduled** to hold the next round of talks in New Delhi during February 23-25,2006.

FDI in small **and medium scale industries**

†317. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI KAMALA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals to increase the limit of Foreign Direct Investment in small and medium scale industries is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the percentage of investment limit fixed during the year 2005-06 and whether any proposal to increase the said limit in the ensuing years is under consideration; and

(c) the details of action so far/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (c)At present, there is no proposal under consideration to increase the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the small-scale industries. There is, at present, no separate category industries classified as medium industry. The FDI policy is reviewed on a continuing basis to improve the investment climate in the country, consistent with the objective of accelerated growth of the economy.

Protest against import of gold

318 SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold is being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether protest is being made against import of gold; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total quantity and value of Gold imported during April 2005 to September 2005 is 442.87 Tonnes and Rs. 27080.88 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) No protest has been received against the import of gold.

Insurance scheme for seafood exporters

319. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India has designed a special insurance scheme for seafood exporters which would cover the risk of rejection of consignment particularly by western countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India have agreed in principle to provide an additional cover provision under the existing Credit Insurance Policies for covering rejection risks arising due to presence of antibiotic residues in shrimps exported to European Union and Japan. The proposed cover is under preparation and will be introduced once the necessary approvals are in place.

Trade agreements with different countries

320. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Agreement and MoUs entered into with various countries in the last two years;

(b) whether enough safeguards have been made to take care of the domestic industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The information giving details of the Agreements and MoUs entered into with various countries in the last two years is enclosed as Statement. (See below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The objective of the Regional/Bilateral trade agreements is to provide preferential access to imports on only such products which are produced or manufactured in the Signatory Parties only. For this, preferences under the trade agreements, where concluded, are subject to fulfillment of certain qualifying criteria under the Rules of Origin and maintenance of negative list of items on which no tariff concessions are granted under the agreement. In case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, recourse to measures such as antidumping and safeguards can also be taken.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No	Agreement/Moll	Date on which signed
1.	Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Areas (SAFTA)	6-1-2004
2.	Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR (a trade of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)	25-1-2004
3.	Framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC FTA (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area) was signed in Thailand by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand	8-2-2004
4.	Framework Agreement between India and the Gulf Coorporation Council (GCC) consisting of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates	25-8-2004
5.	Agreement on Economic Coorporation between the Ministry of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic	13-12-2004

SLNo	Agreement/MoU	Date on which signed
6.	Agreement between India and the United Kingdom for establishment of a Joint Economic and Trade Committee	13-1-2005
7.	Framework Agreement to promote Economic Operation with Chile	20-1-2005
8.	MoU on fishery and aquaculture products between India and Italy	14-2-2005
9.	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore	29-6-2005
10.	MoU between India and Mauritius in the field of Consumer Protection and Legal Metrology	24-10-2005
11.	MoU between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB)	24-10-2005
12.	MoU between Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) and Government of Mauritius	24-10-2005
13.	MoU on Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and Mauritius	24-10-2005
14.	An MoU was signed with Indonesia on 23.11.2005 for setting up of a Joint Study Group (JSG) for examining the feasibility of conclusion of CECA in order to further enhance our economic presence in the region	23-11-2005
15.	A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation for establishing a Joint Study Group (JSG) to formulate a programe to suggest steps for enhancing bilateral trade between India and Russia with an overall objective of diversifying and strengthening the bilateral relations in a wide range of areas, particularly with regard to trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation and to study the feasibility to consider the possibility of signing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and Russian Federation.	6-2-2006
16.	Agreement on Trade & Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro	7-2-2006

AEZ for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh

321. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is called tobacco capital of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact in view of the bumper export of tobacco to other countries during 2004-05, Government of India are seriously thinking of setting up of an Agro Export Zone for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh or from the public representatives has been received in the Ministry for setting up of Agro Export Zone for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what the Ministry has done on such a request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the two major Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco producing States of the country.

(b) to (d) The export of tobacco and tobacco products has steadily increased over the years and reached Rs. 1362.18 crores during 2004-05. No proposal for setting up of an Agri-Export Zone has been received either from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh or from public representatives. However, a special mention regarding the need for setting up an Agri-Export Zone for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh was made in the Parliament during the last session.

Patent to wheat

322. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining issues on patent to wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to impose strict liability on corporations in case of genetic contamination and to put in place a system to preserve and protect the country's rich bio-diversity;

(d) if so, whether Government had held talks with the States in this regard;

(e) if so, the response of the States in each case; and

(f) the present status of the issue on patent to wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a), (b) and (f) The Government is seized about issues concerning patent on wheat. A Civil Writ Petition No. 64 of 2004 in the matter of Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology Vs. Union of India and others was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court praying to direct the Government of India to facilitate revocation of a patent granted by European Patent Office on a soft-milling wheat which produces dough having unique qualities. On the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in this case, a Committee was appointed by Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research to examine the matter. The report of the Committee has since been submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The patent in question was revoked on 3.10.2004 as per the European Patent rules.

(c) to (e) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 provides for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, knowledge and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This Act also provides for conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources.

Section 57, read with Sections 55 and 56, provides the penalties which could be imposed on a company for an offence or contravention under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

South Asian Free-Trade Agreement

323. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) came into being and has been given effect to by Government with effect from January, 2006;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to give effect to SAFTA;

(c) how far the imports and exports are likely to increase/decrease under SAFTA regime; and

(d) how far this will help to improve economy and trade in the least developed regions, *i.e.* Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) which was signed during the 12th SAARC Summit in January 2004 was scheduled to come into effect from 1 "January 2006. A Committee of Experts (COE) consisting of representatives of all Members States (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) have already completed negotiations on the outstanding issues and made recommendations in December 2005. The outstanding issues included (1) SAFTA Rules of Origin, (2) Sensitive Lists, (3) Mechanism for Compensations of Revenue Loss (MCRL) for Least Developed Contracting States (LDCs) and (4) Technical Assistance to LDCs in agreed areas the SAARC Secretariat would issue necessary notification after all Member States convey ratification and instruments of ratification to the SAARC Secretariat.

(b) Government of India has already ratified the Agreement and the instruments of ratification are being communicated to the SAARC Secretariat shortly.

(c) and (d) The implementation of SAFTA, is expected to boost intra-SAARC trade as well as India's trade with SAARC countries significantly to the overall benefit of the country. The extent of increase in our trade with SAARC countries and the resultant benefits in this regard to any particular region of the country cannot be quantified at this stage.

Identification of industrially backward districts

t324. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified industrial backward areas;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any national action plan for the development of such backward areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government for development of backward districts of the country under new liberalization policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For purposes of income tax concessions, the Ministry of Finance has notified a list of industrially backward districts. The state-wise list of such districts is given in the enclosed Statement-I *(See* below)

(c) to (e) Through various concessions announced by State and Central Governments from time to time, a concerted effort is made for the development of backward areas. Details of such schemes are indicated in the enclosed Statement-I I (See below).

The Industrial Policy Statement of 1991 emphasizes the intent of the Government to industrialize the backward areas of the country through promotion of industrial infrastructure and creating a conducive investment climate for industries. The Union Government is supplementing the efforts of State Governments through several policies and programmes. Fiscal concessions are available to industries in notified backward areas and tax holidays are being given to promote model industrial parks as well as growth centres.

A Growth Centre Scheme and the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme are being implemented by the Central Government throughout the country. For the hilly and remote areas, a transport subsidy scheme is being operated. For promoting industrialization in Special Category States, *Viz.* Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Uttranchal, Himachal Pradesh and the North Eastern States, the Central Government has extended financial and fiscal incentives and initiated many other measures of assistance.

Statement-I

Identification of industrially backward districts

List of Category A & Category B Backward Districts in each State for purposes of deduction under section 80-IB(5) of the IT. Act.

Category A		Category B
	Andhra Pradesh	
Nil	Bihar	Srikakulam
		Mahbubnagar
Araria		Katiyar
Madhepura		Bhagalpur
Khagaria		Gopalganj
Kishanganj		Darbhanga
Madhubani		West Champaran
Jehanabad		Saran
Saharsa		Bhojpur
Nawadah		Samastipur
Sitamarhi		Nalanda
Aurangabad		Gaya
East Champaran		Mazaffarpur
Purnia		Rohtas
Siwan		
Vaishali	Jharkhand	
Godda		Deoghar
Gumla		
Dumka		
Palamau		
Sahibganj		
Lohardagga	Gujarat	
The Dangs	Karnataka	Banaskantha
		Sabarkantha
Nil		Bidar

Category A		Category B
	Kerala	
Wayanad		Nil
Idukki	Madhya Pradesh	
Mandla		Seoni
Panna		Tikamgarh
Chattarpur	Chattisgarh	Shivpuri
		Balaghat
		Jhabua
		Sidhi
		Vidisha
		Morena
		BetuI
		Rajgarh
		Sagar
Bastar		Raigarh
Sarguja	Maharashtra	Ranjnandgaon
Gadchiroli	Orissa	Beed
Phulbani		Bolangir
Kalahandi	Rajasthan	Mayurbhanj
		Balasori
		Ganjam
Jatore		Dungarpur
Barmer		Dholpur
Jaisalmer		Sawai Madhopur
Churu		Tonk
Banswara	Uttar Pradesh	Nagaur
		Jhalawar
		Sikar
Sidharthnagar		Hardoi
Bahraich		Lalitpur

Category A	Category B
Pratapgarh	Hamirpur
Maharajganj	Badaun
Banda	Fatehpur
Basti	Azamgarh
	Etah
	Barabanki
	Etawah
	Deorio
	Ghazipur
	Ballia
	Jaunpur
	Sitapur
	Jalaun
	Unnao
	Faizabad
	Kanpur Dehat
	Mainpuri
	Gonda
	Farukhabad
	Sultanpur
	Mirzapur
	Mau
Uttaranchal	
Chamoli	
Uttarkashi	
Almora	
Pithoragarh	
Tehri Garhwal	
West Bengal	
Malda	Purulia
West Dinajpur (Split into Uttar	Birdhum
Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur)	
Murshidabad	Midnapur
Cooch Behar	
Bankura	
Jalpaiguri	

***Statement**-ll*

Identification of Industrially Backward Districts

Schemes/Incentives for development of industrially backward areas:

(A) Income Tax Concessions

(1) Section 80-IC of the Income-Tax Act provides fiscal incentives to certain special category states including the North-Eastern States. As per this provision a new industrial undertaking set up on or after the 24th of December 1997 but before 1.4.2007 or an existing undertaking which undertakes substantial expansion during this period and which is located in certain notified areas is eligible for 100% income-tax exemption for a period of 10 assessment years. A similar deduction is available for all new undertakings or existing undertakings which undertake susbstantial expansion and which are engaged in specified thrust sector activities.

(2) Tax incentives are also available to industries set up on or before 31.3.2004 in the backward districts of the country. While industries in Category A backward districts are eligible for 100% deduction for 5 years followed by 25% (30% in the case of companies) for the next 5 years, industries in Category B backward districts are eliglible for 100% deduction for 3 years followed by 25% (30% in the case of companies) for the next 5 years.

(B) Growth Centre Scheme

With a view to promote industrialization of backward areas in the country, the Government of India, in June, 1988, had announced the Growth Centre Scheme which became operational form 1991 under which 71 Growth Centres were proposed to be set up throughout the country with basic infrastructure facilities such as power, water, telecommunications and banking to enable them to attract industries. These have been allocated amongst States on the basis of a combined criteria of area, population and extent of industrial backwardness. All the Seventy One Growth centres have been sanctioned by the Government of India.

The Central Government assists the State Governments by contributing upto Rs.10 crores by way of equity for each growth centre. The balance funds are to be raised by the State Governments and their agencies who

implement the projects. The amount of Central assistance has been increased to Rs.15 crores for each growth centre in the North-Eastern Region including Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh, Uttranchal, Jammu & Kashmir.

(C) Transport Subsidy Scheme

This Scheme was introduced in July, 1971 to promote industries in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas. The scheme is applicable to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep,Darjeeling district of West Bengal and in specified districts of Uttranchal. Under the Scheme, subsidy ranging form 50%—90% is admissible on transport incurred on movement of raw materials and finished goods from designated rail heads/ports up to the location of the industrial units and vice-versa for a period of five years from the date of commencement of commercial production. The scheme has been extended up to 31.3.2009.

The benefits under the aforesaid Schemes are available to the States of Jammu & Kashmir also. In Uttranchal and Himachal Pradesh, the subsidy benefit is available under Transport Susbsidy Scheme and Comprehensive Insurance Scheme.

(D) Three schemes for accelerating industrialization in the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh

(1) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme

Under this scheme, a subsidy @ 15% of the investment in plant and machinery subject to maximum of Rs.30 lakh would be admissible to industries located in the growth centres and to new industrial units and/or their substantial expansion in other identified areas in the North East Region.

(2) Central Interest Subsidy Scheme

The Scheme provides Interest subsidy @ 3% on the working capital loan to eligible industrial units in the North Eastern Region for a period of ten years after the units goes into production.

(3) Comprehensive Insurance Scheme

This Scheme envisages insurance benefits of 100% premium to all eligible industrial units set up in the North Eastern Region after 24th December, 1997. The insured party shall pay initial premium which shall be reimbursed by the nodal insurance company out of a revolving fund maintained by the company. Funds for this revolving fund shall be contributed by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion. The Scheme will remain effective for **a** period of 10 years i.e. up to 13.7.2009.

(E) Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (IID) of M/o Small Scale Industries

The office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), Ministry of Small Scale Industries is also implementing the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme(IID) for development of backward areas.

The scheme, introduced in 1994, envisages to develop infrastructure facilitites for small industries to facilitate location of industries in rural/ backward areas. The central Government and Small Industries Development Bank of India Contribute of each IID Centres Rs.5 crore in the ratio of 2:3 and the cost in excess thereof and the cost of land is met by the concerned State Government.

For the North Eastern States, the funding pattern (sharing of funds) has been changed from 2:3 between Government of India and SIDBI/Financial Institutions to 4:1.

(F) In addition to above, the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), Ministry of Small Scale Industries is also implementing following Schemes/Programmes for the benefits of SSI sector in addition to Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (IIDS) uniformly throughout the country

1. Tool Rooms provide training facilities in the field of tool design, dye making etc.

2. Central Footwear Training Institutes impart training on shoe design and related matters through CAD/CAM.

3. Process-cum product Development Centres at Meerut, Agra & Kanauj provides training and undertake product development.

4. Under Small Industry Cluster Development Programme, clusters of small-scale industries are taken up for technology upgradation and other overall development.

5. ISO-9000/14001 Certification Reimbursement Scheme provides reimbursement upto Rs. 75,000/- or 75% of the cost, whichever is more incurred by the units for obtaining requisite certification from the competent authority.

6. Regional Testing Centres and Field Testing Stations provide testing facilites for BIS Standard of products.

7. The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme has been launched to introduce appropriate packaging and bar coding of products.

8. Credit Guarantee Trust Fund has been set up to provide guarantee for collateral free credit facilities upto Rs.25 lakhs.

9. Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme provides 12% of capital subsidy (to a maximum of Rs. 4.8 lakhs) for upgradation of technology.

Indo-Pak trade

325. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Pak trade has grown at an impressive rate during 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India and Pakistan together propose to develop strong manufacturing bases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the available data, the bilateral trade during April-November 2005 during 2005-2006 has shown a positive growth of 18% over the same period during 2004-2005. The details are given below

(Value: in US $ Million)

Year	Exports to Pakistan	Imports from Pakistan	Total Trade	%Age Growth in Export to Pakistan	%Age Growth in Import from Pakistan	% Growth in Bilateral Trade
2004-05 (Apr.-Nov.)	314.54	66.03	380.57			
2005-06 (Apr.-Nov.)	341.67	108.99	450.66	9	65	18

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata) (c) Nor Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

FDI from Singapore

326. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Singapore was No. 3 in Indian FDI stakes during the first 9 months of 2005'

(b) which are the sectors that Singapore companies are looking at closely for investment; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to further boost this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Singapore, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in equity of Rs. 1109 crore during the period January 2005 to September 2005, ranks third among the highest investing countries.

(b) Sectors attracting highest equity investment from Singapore during this period are Services Sector; Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet preparations; and Electrical equipments (including computer software & electronics).

(c) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, under which FDI up to 100% is allowed in most sectors/activities under the automatic route. India and Singapore have also entered into a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with the objective of, *inter-alia,* enhancing investment flows.

Import of Wheat

327. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to import wheat from other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries from which the imports have been planned;

(c) whether there is any shortage in the production of wheat in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the reasons for shortage in production; and

(e) the quality of wheat proposed to be imported alongwith the details of rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) It has been decided to import 5 lakhs metric tonnes of wheat through the State Trading Corporation (STC) at a price and quality as decided by Department of Food & Public Distribution. The wheat import is for Southern states only and the wheat is planned to arrive only in the Southern ports at Mangalore, Chennai, Tuticorin, Vishakhapatnam and Cochin.

The reasons and rationale behind importing the wheat are, *interalia,* reduced availability of wheat stocks in the Central Pool, high ruling market prices, higher offtake, lower procurement levels and to augment the domestic availability of wheat as the Government if firmly committed not to compromise in the matter of food security.

The STC has floated a global tender soliciting bids from prospective internationally reputed suppliers for this purpose.

As per reports received from the States, the area under wheat production this year is 265.47 lakh hectares as against 263.84 lakh hectares last year. Thus, there is likely to be an increase in wheat production this year as compared to last year provided weather conditions remain favourable.

Rate of Customs duty under FTA

†328. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India does foreign trade under the Free Trade Agreement with various countries of the world;

(b) if so, the countries with whom foreign trade was going on till December, 2005 under the Free Trade Agreement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that rate of the custom duty under the Free Trade Agreement remains less than the ordinary custom duty; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the difference between the two rates of custom duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The following Free Trade Agreements (FTA) signed with India's trading partners have been implemented till December 2005:—

(i) India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade and Commerce

(ii) India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement

(iii) Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Singapore

(iv) Early Harvest Scheme of 82 tariff lines under Framework Agreement for establishing a Free Trade Area between India and Thailand.

(c) and (d) Under an FTA, the trading partners exchange tariff concessions on items of export interest to each other. The difference between the preferential duty under FTA and the basic custom duty vary from product to product and range from 0-100%. The preferential duty also varies from agreement to agreement.

Agricultural Products dumped into Indian markets

329. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of cheap imported agricultural +Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

products like tea, cotton, rise have been dumped in Indian markets to the detriment of Indian agriculture;

(b) if so, in respect of which items antidumping cases have come up during the last three years;

(c) the total amount of imports of each such product, dumped in Indian market during these years,country-wise; and

(d) what safeguards have been provided under the W.T.O regime against the protectionist tariff regime in various developed countries and which products have been kept in the negative list part of anti-dumping measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Anti-dumping investigations are normally initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) on the basis of application filed by the domestic industry alleging dumping, injury and causal link between dumping and injury. The DGAD has, till date, not initiated any anti-dumping investigations involving agricultural products.

(d) The WTO has a Dispute Settlement Machanism and in case any measure by a WTO member is deemed inconsistent with the provisions of WTO Agreements, affected Member may resort to the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanisum. There is no negative list of products either under the WTO Anti-dumping Agreement or the domestic Rules.

Small Industrial Colonies

†330. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up small industrial colonies throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of industrial colonies existing at present in the country; and

(d) the number of proposed industrial colonies to be set up in near future, State-wise?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Government has sanctioned 71 Growth Centres involving central assistance of Rs. 528.35 crores under the Growth Centre Centre Scheme enclosed as statement-l (See below) and 26 proposals involving central assistance of Rs. 951.47 crores under the Industrial Infrastructure Up-gradation Scheme for provision/ upgradation of infrastructure is enclosed as statement-ll.

Statement-l

List of Growth Centres involving Central Assistance

(Rs. In Lakhs)

SI. No.	Name of State, Growth Centre/District	Date of approval	Approved Project cost	Amount of Central Release
	1 2	3	4	5
	ANDHRA PRADESH			
1.	Hindupur (Anantpur)	30.3.92	2728.00	250.00
2.	Jedchrela (Mehboobnagar)	23.7.92	3408.00	245.00
3.	Bobbili (vizianagaram)	30.3.92	3576.12	601.00
4.	Ongole (Prakasam)	30.3.92	3241.00	860.00
	ARUNACHAL PRADESH			
5.	Niklok-Ngorlung (East Siang)	08.04.97	2020.00	768.00
	ASSAM			
6.	Matia (Goalpara)	31.10.97	2244.00	900.00
7.	Chariduar (Sonitpur)	08.04.97	2543.40	1016.00
8.	Chaygoan-Patgoan (Karmrup)	09.12.03	1615.24	
	BIHAR			
9.	Begusarai (Begusaria)	03.05.95	2475.00	500.00
10.	Bhagalpur (Bhagalpur)	30.9.96	3755.00	50.00
11.	Chhapra (Chhapra)	30.9.96	3511.00	50.00
12.	Darbhanga(Darbangha)	13.2.98	4113.00	50.00
13.	Muzaffarpur (Muzaffarpur)	30.09.96	3311.00	50.00
	CHHATTISGARH			
14.	Borai (Durg)	27.03.91	3633.00	1000.00
15.	Siltara (Raipur)	11.03.92	3437.00	1000.00
	GOA			
16.	Electronic-city (Verna-Plateau)	12.02.93	2957.00	1000.00
	GUJARAT			
17.	Gandhidam (Kutch)	23.07.92	3178.00	785.00
18.	Paiampur (Banaskantha)	23.07.92	3078.00	350.00

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Vagra (Bharauch)	23.07.92	3572.00	1000.00
	HARYANA			
20	Bawal (Rewari)	31.0392	3888.10	1000.00
21.	Saha(Ambala)	31.10.97	8119.00	850.00
	HIMACHAL PRADESH			
22.	Kangra (Kangra)	20.2.97	2276.17	1103.00
	JAMMU & KASHMIR			
23.	Lassipora (Pulwama)	11.12.97	5420.49	925.00
24.	Samba (Jammu)	27.01.92	2978.82	1500.00
25.	JHARKHAND			
	Hazaribagh (Hazaribagh)	03.05.95	3834.00	400.00
	KARNATAKA			
26.	Dharwad (Dharwad)	27.01.92	3451.18	1000.00
27.	Raichur (Raichur)	27.01.92	2289.87	1000.00
28.	Hassan (Hassan)	27.01.92	2678.36	1000.00
	KERALA			
29.	Kannur-Kozhikode (Kannur-Kozhikode)	28.02.94	2936.00	1000.00
30.	Alappuza-Malappuram (Alappuza-Malappuram)	28.02.94	3093.00	1000.00
	MADHYA PRADESH			
31.	Chainpura (Guna)	27.03.91	3609.00	550.00
32.	Ghirongi (Bhind)	27.03.91	3481.00	1000.00
33.	Kheda (Dhar)	27.03.91	3550.00	1000.00
34.	Satlapur (Raisen)	23.03.93	3000.00	1000.00
	MAHARASHTRA			
35.	Akola (Akola)	30.3.92	3479.90	1000.00
36.	Chandrapur (Chandrapur)	30.03.92	3107.52	815.00
37.	Dhule (Dhule)	30.0.92	3172.00	780.00
38.	Nanded (Nanded)	11.12.97	4628.00	1000.00
39.	Ratnagiri(Ratnagiri)	30.03.92	3232.27	440.00
	MANIPUR			
40.	Lamlai-Napet (Imphal)	02.03.98	3000.00	150.00
	Meghalaya			
41	Mendhipattar (East Garo Hills)	24.10.97	1800.00	550.00
	MIZORAM			
42.	Luangmual (Aizawl)	24.10.97	1525.46	880.00
	NAGALAND			
43.	Ganeshnagar (Kohima)	12.02.98	1700.00	1500.00
	ORISSA			
44.	Chhatrapur (Ganjam)	12.02.97	4231.40	500.00

1	2	3	4	5
45.	kalinganagar-Duburi (Cuttack)	12.02.97	4127.00	1000.00
46.	Jharsuguda (Jharsuguda)	12.02.98	3990.90	447.00
47.	Kesinga (Kalahandi)	09.02.99	3287.33	175.00
	PONDICHERRY			
48.	Polagam-karaikal (Karaikal)	31.10.97	2500.00	650.00
	PUNJAB			
49.	Bathinda (Bathinda)	27.03.91	3742.65	1000.00
50.	Pathankot (Gurdaspur)	06.01.92	3100.00	1000.00
	RAJASTHAN			
51.	Abu-Road (Sirohi)	31.03.92	3000.00	1000.00
52.	Bhilwara (Bhilwara)	18.12.97	3407.00	600.00
53.	Khara (Bikaner)	31.03.92	2750.00	820.00
54.	Dholpur (Dholpur)	23.03.93	3000.00	1000.00
55	Jhalawar (Jhalawar)	23.07.92	3000.00	600.00
	SIKKIM			
56.	Salghari-Samlik Marchak	7.11.03	3175.88	600.00
	TAMILNADU			
57.	Erode (Periyar)	23.07.92	4120.00	1000.00
58.	Oragadam (Kancheepuram)	12.05.99	5331.59	800.00
59.	Tirunelveli - Gangai Kondan (Tirunelveli-kattabomman)	30.03.92	3240.00	930.00
	TRIPURA			
60.	Bodhjangnagar (West Tripura)	07.11.97	1500.00	1500.00,
	UTTRANCHAL			
61.	Siggadi (Pauri-Garhwal)	16.12.93	1685.00	1050.00
62.	Bijauli (Jhansi)	23.03.93	1885.00	593.00
63.	Jamaur (Shahjahanpur)	17.02.93	1622.00	415.00
64.	Pakbara (Moradabad)	17.02.93	3429.00	1000.00
65.	Dibiapur (Auraiya)	03.03.98	1950.00	350.00
66.	Jainpur (Kanpur Dehat)	23.03.93	1899.00	77000
67.	Satharia (Jaunpur)	17.02.93	4427.00	767.00
68.	Shajanwa (Gorakhpur)	16.02.93	3491.00	1000.00
	WEST BENGAL			
69.	Bolpur (Birbhum)	20.02.97	6356.16	400.00
70.	Jalpaiguri (Jalpaiguri)	20.02.97	11184.6	400.00
71.	Malda (Malda)	20.02.97	4297.59	400.00
	TOTAL			528.35

Statement-ll

List of Approved Clusters under IIUS (State-wise)

(Rs. in crore)

SI. No	Name of the cluster	State	Project Cost	Central Grant	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Textiles Cluster, Tirupur.	Tamil Nadu	143.50	50.00	25.00
2.	Cereals, Pulses & Staples cluster, Madurai.	Tamil Nadu	39.96	2*97	10.00
3.	Auto Ancillary Cluster, Chennai.	Tamil Nadu	47.20	35.00	11.70
4.	Pump, Motor & Foundry cluster, Coimbatore,	Tamil Nadu	66.39	39.22	8.00
5.	Leather Cluster, Ambur.	Tamil Nadu	67.34	43.94	8.70
	TOTAL		364.39	198.13	63.40
6.	Chemical cluster, Vapi.	Gujarat	54.31	40.49	12.50
7.	Chemical Cluster, Ankleshwar	Gujarat	152.83	50.00	33.40
8.	Gem & jewellery Cluster, Surat	Gujarat	85.80	50.00	16.70
9.	Chemical Cluster,	Gujarat	69.86	41.39	8.30
	TOTAL		362.80	181.88	70.90
10.	Foundry Park, Howrah	West Bengal	119.74	40.40	8.48
11.	Multi Industry Cluster, Haldia	West Bengal	67.25	36.97	7.39
12.	Rubber Cluster, Howrah.	West Bengal	29.74	15.72	3.14
	Total		**216.73**	**93.09**	**19.01**
13.	Foundry Cluster, **Belguam.**	Karnataka	24.78	18.54	6.19
14.	Machine Tools Cluster, Bangalore.	Karnataka	135.55	49.12	16.37
	TOTAL		160.33	67.66	22.56
15.	Auto Components Cluster, Pune	Maharashtra	59.99	44.99	15.00
16.	Textile Cluster, Ichalkaranii.	Maharashtra	65.07	32.70	6.54
	Total		**125.06**	**77.69**	**21.54**
17.	Auto Cluster, Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh	31.08	23.50	7.80
18.	Pharma Cluster, Hyderabad.	Andhra Pradesh	66.16	49.62	-Nil-
	TOTAL		97.24	73.12	7.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Metallurgical Cluster, Jaipur	Orissa	62.50	47.00	15.66
20.	Textiles cluster, Ludhiana	Punjab	17.19	12.69	4.21
21.	Marble Cluster, Kishangarh	Rajasthan	36.80	27.60	9.20
22.	Auto Cluster, Pitampura	Madhya Pradesh	73.29	49.94	16.65
23.	Coir Cluster	Kerala	56.80	42.60	14.20
24.	Textile Cluster, Panipat	Haryana	54.53	40.90	13.63
25.	Ispat Bhoomi Cluster, Raipur.	Chattisgarh	54.11	29.87	-Nil-
26.	Leather Cluster, Kanpur.	Uttar pradesh	27.34	9.75	1.95
	GRAND TOTAL:		1709.11	951.47	280.71

Ratification of Safta

331. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had ratified the SAFTA which comes into effect from 1st January this year;

(b) if so, whether Government had Consulted the States before ratifying this agreement;

(c) if so, the response of various State Governments in this agreement;

(d) whether India is scaling down the customs duties to the level of 0-5 per cent by 2013 as per the present agreement;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether India is also providing certain concessions to the four least developed countries which includes a compensation mechanism for the revenue loss that they may incur owing to the cut in their import duties; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir, The Government has already ratified the SAFTA which comes into effect from 1st January, 2006, However, the instruments of ratification are being sent to the SAARC Secretariat shortly.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) In terms of the phased Trade Liberalization Programme under the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), in two years, non-Least Developed Contracting States (LDCS) (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal) will bring them down from existing level to 30% NLDCs will then bring down tariffs from 20% to 0-5% in 5 Years (Sri Lanka 6 years), while LDCs will do so in 8 years. In view of different budget period of Member States, all Member States except Nepal would effect customs notification for TLP with effect from 1st July 2006; Nepal will notify it from 1st August 2006 with the condition that the TLP for the first two years shall be completed by 31st December 2007.

(f) Yes Sir.

(g) The SAFTA provides for certain concessions to LDCs and India is committed to comply with these as a signatory to the SAFTA Agreement, the details are briefly indicated below:

a. Apart from the general condition in the SAFTA Rules of Origin for giving tariff concession which prescribes the twin criteria of Change of Tariff Heading (CTH) at four digit Harmonized Coding System (HS) and value content of 40% (30% for LDCs) product specific rules for 191 tariff lines have been prescribed for LDCs given their limited base for natural resources and undiviersified industrial structure.

b. India has kept two Sensitive Lists under SAFTA one for NLDCs with 884 items and a shorter list with 762 items for LDCs.

c. NLDCs would provide technical assistance to LDCs in agreed areas.

d. Mechanism for Compensation of Revenue Loss (MCRL) by the NLDCs with following salient features:

(i) The compensation of LDCs, except to Maldives, to be available for four years; to Maldives it would be for six years.

(ii) The compensation shall be in the form of grant in US dollar.

(iii) The compensation shall be subject to a cap of 1%,1%,5% and 3% of customs revenue collected on non-sensitive items under bilateral trade in the base year, i.e. average of 2004 and 2005.

(iv) The compensation shall be administered by the Committee of Experts as per the Administrative Arrangement prescribed in the Annex to the MCRL Agreement.

India would also offer to Bangladesh a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of 8 million pieces of garments; with the condition that 3 million pieces are exported to India provided fabrics are sourced from India, another 3 million pieces provided fabrics are either of Indian or Bangladeshi origin and 2 million pieces with any condition on sourcing.

Opening of Attari-Wagha Border for trade on permanent basis

332. SHRI RAMA MUNNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India requested the Government of Pakistan for opening up of Attari-Wagha Border for trade between the two countries on permanent basis;

(b) whether the issue was raised at the Secretary-level discussions held recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) During the Commerce Secretary-level discussions within the framework of the Composite dialogue between India and Pakistan held in New Delhi in August 2005, the Indian side requested to open the land route at Attari-Wagah Land Customs Stations on a permanent basis for enhancing the bilateral trade, and the Pakistan side noted this request.

Protest against duty free import of vanaspathi

333. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been protest from edible oil industry against duty

free imports of vanaspathi from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan as preferential treatment is given to these countries against local manufactures;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken on the demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As far as import of vanaspati from Nepal and Sri Lanka is concerned, the Government had set up an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) under the Chairmanship of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce, to look into issues raised by the domestic vanaspati producers. The IMG has given its recommendations but no decisions have been taken on them. In case of Bhutan, it has been informed that the Government of Bhutan has raised import duty on Crude Palm Oil (CPO), input used in making vanaspati to 100% and hence export of vanaspati from Bhutan to India has become economically unviable.

Implementation of New Weapons Procurement Policy

334. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is willing to implement new weapons procurement policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 54 percent of procurements in the last fiscal year from other countries shows that even after over 57 years of Independence, cutting edge technologies have not been developed in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Capital acquisitions including acquisition of weapons are carried out in accordance with Defence Procurement Procedure 2005 which came into effect from 1.7.2005. This document lays down the procedure for the

acquisition of capital items for the Armed Forces. It includes the procedure for the acquisition of capital items for the Armed Forces. It includes the procedure relating to the formulation of Services' Qualitative Requirement, Acceptance of Necessity, Solicitation of techno-commercial offers, Evaluation of offers, Commercial negotiations, approval of Competent Financial Authority.

(c) and (d) In 2004-2005, about 54 percent of Capital acquisitions were made through imports. Import option is exercised only when it is absolutely necessary to procure the items within a definite time frame on operational grounds to bridge the capability gaps and when such equipment cannot be sourced indigenously. However, Government is taking all necessary steps to encourage and develop the indigenous capability to design and manufacture sophisticated defence items. Substantial achievements have been made by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in many high technology areas such as Aeronautics, Missiles, Electronic Warfare, Advance Composites, etc.

MiG Crashes

335. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of large number of MiG 21 crashes, they have been described as "flying coffins";

(b) if so, what is the number of MiG 21 planes that have crashed so far; and

(c) whether Government propose to review their continuance for Defence purposes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Due to a spate of accidents in 2002-2002, the term 'Flying Coffin' was coined by a section of the media.

(b) Out of a total number of seven hundred and ninety three (793) MiG-21 aircraft which have been inducted in the Indian Air Force (IAF) since 1963, the IAF has lost three hundred and thirty (330) MiG-21 aircraft in the accidents.

(c) the earlier versions of the MiG-21 aircraft (e.g. Type-77, Type-96 and Type-75 Bis) are in the process of being phased out. The latest version has been upgraded to MiG-21 Bison using the contemporary systems and is likely to continue in the service till 2020.

Non-inclusion of up in Republic Day Parade, 2006

336. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh has been winning prizes in the Republic Day Parade right from 1953 to 2005 an unbroken sequence of 52 years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh did not find any place in this years parade in the Capital; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Tableau proposal received from the State of Uttar Pradesh was considered by the Expert Committee appointed for the purpose alongwith the proposals received from other States/Union Territories/Departments in various meetings. However, the proposal of Uttar Pradesh was not shortlisted by the Expert Committee for inclusion in the cultural pageant of Republic Day Parade, 2006. The tableaux are shortlisted based on overall merit and the duration of the Republic Day Parade.

Acquistion and eviction notices issued by Mahu Cantonment Board

337. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether acquisition and eviction notices have been issued by the Mahu Cantonment Board, District indore (Madhya Pradesh) on-occupants

of residential and non-residential areas in the Cantonment and the army areas around it;

(b) the number of house-owners and commercial establishments on whom notices have been served;

(c) the purposes for which acquisition notices have been served and the land acquired is purported to be used; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to extend the civil area of the cantonment, if so, to what extent and the steps so far taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No acquisition notice has been issued by the Cantonment Board, Mhow. However, some notices for eviction have been issued to encroachers on Government land under management of Cantonment Board, Mhow by the Cantonment Executive Officer as Estates Officer under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) Does not arise as no acquisition notice has been served by Cantonment Board, Mhow.

(d) Presently, the Government does not contemplate extension of Civil area in Mhow Cantonment.

Revision of Pension

338. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to revise upwards the pensions for all lower ranks who retired before 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to introduce or develop a second skill during service so that they can lead a smooth life after retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 1.1.2006, pension of pre-1.1.1996 retirees of all ranks of Personnel below officer rank (PBOR) in Army, Navy and Air Force would be revised with reference to the maximum of post-1.1.1996

pay-scales. In addition, the weightage of Sepoy, Naik and Havildar ranks for past as well as future retirees has been enhanced from 5 years to 10, 8 and 6 years respectively subject to a maximum qualifying service of 30 years. However, if any person is getting a qualifying service of more than 30 years with the existing weightage, he would continue getting that.

(c) Directorate General, Resettlement organizes resettlement training/ vocational training of varying duration in various institutes across the country in a diverse range of disciplines for armed forces personnel about to retire to equip them for employment in the civil market. Review of courses and institutes is an ongoing process to enhance the employability potential of the personnel. These courses are conducted free of cost for the PBOR.

Launch of Battimalu

339. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Navy launched its fast attack craft battimalu; and

(b) how this helps in boosting indigenisation of such craft in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Fast Attack Craft (FAC) 'Battimalui' was launched on 28.6.2005 at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. at Kolkata.

(b) The FAC has been designed indigenously and constructed at the Indian shipyard, GRSE Ltd., Kolkata. Almost total indigenization has been achieved in the construction of the craft which has helped the local Indian industry substantially.

National War Memorial

340. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 300 soldiers, on an average are killed every year while fighting an 'undeclared war" in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East but we do not have a National War Memorial to honour their sacrifices; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The number of soldiers killed in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East during the last 4 years is as under-

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005
No. of Soldiers Killed	254	241	187	136

A concept plan for the National War Memorial which envisages location at India Gate Complex has been presented before Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC). Identification and providing the site for the proposed structure, which involves decision/clearance by various agencies is not within the control of Ministry of Defence.

Less Air Crashes during 2005

341. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the Indian Air Force, the year 2005 is the safest year during the last 36 years since it has recorded only 10 crashes in 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry evolved/studied the reasons behind this so that the same could be followed; and

(c) whether this can put IAF at par with the safest operational air forces in the world?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the financial year 2005-2006, till date, a total of nine accidents have been reported which is the safest record in the history of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

(b) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

(c) The IAF is moving towards achieving the flight safety standards of the advanced Air Forces of the world and it is a continuing exercise.

Overseas training for Indian Defence Forces personnel

342. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Defence Forces personnel are deputed to military institutions in various countries for receiving specialized training under the International Military Education and Training Programme;

(b) the names of the countries which are affiliated to the Programme;

(c) the details of institutions overseas where Indian personnel received training since 2001;

(d) whether personnel are deputed to countries outside the Programme also for receiving expert training; and

(e) if so, country-wise details thereof, indicating separately wherever the purposes were to receive expertise in counter terrorism/insurgency, year-wise since 1998?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Indian Defence Forces personnel are being deputed to United States of America under its International Military Education and Training Programme. The countries affiliated to this programme are decided by the United States Government. Indian Defence Personnel have been deputed to approximately 150 institutions overseas for training since 2001.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Indian Defence pesonnel have been deputed to United States of America, United Kingdom-Australia, Singapore for counter-terrorism/ insurgency-related training.

Strengthening the coast guard

343. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the Coast Guard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost of strengthening the Coast Guard; and

(d) the time by when the Coast Guard will be provided all necessary equipments including vessels?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) In an expanding organization like the Coast Guard, procurement of necessary equipment including vessels is an ongoing process. The Coast Guard has been adequately equipped to carry out the role assigned to it by the Government. In accordance with the Coast Guard Development Plan 2002-2007 a total outlay of Rs. 4317.01 crore has been provided for this purpose.

Suicide cases in the armed forces

344. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the lastest figures, almost 100 suicide cases are reported every year in the armed forces of our country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the suicide cases are more frequent in strife torn Jammu-Kashmir and the North-East region; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to lessen the stress syndrome among soldiers and reduce the number of suicide and reduce the number of suicide cases in armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The figures for the last three years are given below:-

	2003	2004	2005
Navy Army	0 96	03	04 92
Air Force	24	100 13	23
	120	116	119

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Proactive approach through better man management techniques is being adopted at different levels. Measures such as identification of high risk category, increased inter personnel relationship and communication between Officers and Jawans, stress management, counselling by professionals, establishment of helpline and increased focus on welfare activities are taken to prevent such incidents.

Kelkar Committee Recommendations

t345. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount has to be spent on the import of arms from foreign countries in the defence sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that in order the encourage the indigenization of foreign products and to increase the coordination between Armed forces Ministry of Defence and indigenous private industries in a consolidated manner, Government has accepted the recommendations of Kelkar Committee; and

(c) if so, the details of action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As a matter of policy, priority is accordance to sourcing all defence equipment indigenously. Defence items are only imported where the Armed forces require items of a particular technology and within a definite time frame and they cannot be sourced indigenously. Even when a decision has been taken to import a defence equipment, its indigenous construction under Transfer of Technology is also explored.

(b) and (c) A Committee was set up by the Government under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar to, *inter alia,* examine the current procedures and recommend modalities of integration of the User, the Defence Ministry and the Indian Industry, both private and public, in the acquisition process of products required by the Armed Forces 26 of the 40 recommendations in part-l of the report of the committee have been accepted for implementation; 8 recommendations have been accepted with some modifications; and the remaining 6 recommendations are under further examination. The recommendations made in part-ll of the report of the Committee are under examination.

Non-inclusion of Bihar and Jharkhand Tableaus in Republic Day Parade

346. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Tableaus of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bihar and Jharkhand were not included in the Republic Day Parade this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the criteria for including tableaus of States in the Republic Day Parade?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The proposals of the states of Bihar and Jharkhand were net shortlisted by the Expert Committee for inclusion in the cultural pageant of Republic Day Parade, 2006.

(c) The selection of Tableaus for inclusion in the Republic Day Parade is done by an Expert Committee appointed for the purpose. The Expert Committee consists of eminent persons from the field of visual arts, painting, sculpture, dance, music etc. The Expert Committee considers all the proposals received from different States/Union Territories/ Departments etc. in its meetings. It takes into account not only the importance of the concept/theme but also the cultural diversity and certain core values of the nation and the progress achieved in various fields. The tableaus areshortlisted based on overall merit and duration of the Republic Day Parade.

Ordnance Factory Rajgir, Bihar

347. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three hundred crores of rupees have been • spent on the ordnance factory to be set up in Rajgir in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) An expenditure of Rs. 314 Crores has been incurred till date. The details are as follows:—

(i) Cost of technology -	Rs. 66 Crores
(ii) Cost of land	Rs. 61 Crores
(iii) Rehabilitation	Rs. 12 Crores
(iv) Civil Works & Others	Rs. 175 Crores

(c) Due to cost overrun, an Expert Committee had been appointed to review the Ordnance Factory Nalanda Project and the Project work has been kept in abeyance. The report submitted by the committee is being examined

Ceasefire on LoC with Pakistan

348. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had reached an agreement regarding ceasefire on Line of Control (LoC) with the Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pakistani Rangers have violated the ceasefire in Sambha Sector recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) Ceasefire between India and Pakistan has been effective along the Line of Control (LoC) since November, 2003. No violation of ceasefire by Pakistan Rangers has taken place in Sambha sector recently.

Providing necessary equipments to NDRF

349. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a year after the tsunami devastated coastal South India, the Government are nowhere close to setting up the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF);

(b) whether it is a fact that constrained by the required Rs. 2,000 crore, the Home Ministry has failed to procure the equipment necessary for arming the force; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No Sir. Eight battalions of Central Para-Military Forces (CPMFs) *i.e.* two (2) battalions each of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Border Security Force (BSF), and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have already been earmarked for the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The training of the personnel of the earmarked battalions of the CPMFs for NDRF is in progress.

(b) and (c) No sir. The requirement of equipment, additional vehicles, boats, efc. for eight (8) NDRF battalions has been worked out involving an approximate cost of Rs. 334.21 crore as non-recurring expenditure and Rs. 23.78 crore as recurring expenditure. The Government has already approved the above requirements of equipment, additional vehicles, boats efc. The process of procurement of the same has already been initiated.

Demand for additional para-military forces by Orissa

350. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CM, Orissa has asked for additional paramilitary force to combat the menace of Naxalism in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the action plan of the Centre to help the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Chief Minister, Orissa requested for deployment of additional 3 Coys, of CRPF in November, 2005.

(b) The Central Para-Military Forces are deployed in various States considering the overall security scenario and availability of these Forces. Accordingly the forces are deployed in Orissa as well.*

Arrests of terrorists in Delhi

351. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the eve of the Republic Day this year, two terrorists owing allegiance to an off-shoot of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed were nabbed in New Delhi, with a sizable amount of ammunition and explosives; and

(b) if so, the details of the terrorists, the ammunition and explosives recovered and the plans uncovered thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Two terrorists of Bangladeshi origin belonging to Harkat-UI-Jahad Islam (HUJI), a militant organisation active in Bangladesh and supportihg Jaish-e-Mohammed, were arrested on 24th January, 2006.1.42 Kg of Pentraerythritoltetranitrate (PETN), 4 electronic detonators and 2 hand grenades were recovered from them. The interrogation of these terrorists has revealed that they were assigned the task by their organisation to deliver the explosive to another terrorist on 24th January, 2006 in Delhi.

Rampage at Kamakhya Temple by BSF Personnel

352. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSF personnel were on rampage at Kamakhya Temple near Guwahati in Assam on 29th January, 2006, beating temple priests and looting and damaging shops there:

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the concerned BSF personnel;

(d) whether any compensation was paid to those who were injured and those whose properties were looted/damaged; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) On 29.01.2006,35 BSF personnel of

BSF went to visit Kamakhya Temple in an organized manner. Reportedly, a scuffle took place between BSF personnel and Pandas (employees of temple)/civilians which resulted into injury to two BSF persons and four civilians.

(b) and (c) The incident is being investigated by civil police and a Staff Court of Inquiry ordered by BSF authorities. The High Court of Guwahati has also taken *suo-moto* cognizance of the incident and the matter is *sub-judice* before a Division Bench headed by Chief Justice of that High Court.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) & (c).

Attack on IIS, Bangalore

353. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed and injured in the terrorist attack in the campus of India Institute of Science, Bangalore in the last week of December, 2005;

(b) whether the terrorists, have since been indentified and arrested and if, so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Karnataka had received the message about the terrorist attack in Bangalore much before the occurrence of the incidents and if so, what are the specific reasons for not taking any precautionary measure and the action proposed to be taken against the officer concerned for dereliction of duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) In the terrorist shootout in the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore on 28.12.2005, one Prof. M.C. Puri from Delhi was skilled and four other delegates sustained injuries, when the delegates of the International conference were coming out of the J.N. Tata Auditorium.

(b) The Banglore City Police has registered a case and one Abdul Rehman of Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh has been arrested on 1.1.2006.

Investigation carried out so far points towards the possibility of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a terrorist organization, bahind this attack.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has informed that they did not have any advance intelligence input about the terrorist attack on the lISc, Bangalore.

Special Security arrangement for National Institutes

354. SHRI S.S. AHLUWAUA. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) the details of the terrorist attack on 28th December, 2005 at the Indian Institute of Science (IIS), Bangalore, that left Prof. M.C. Puri killed and several scholars injured;

(b) whether the Karnataka Administration and Bangalore Police had Intelligence inputs about potential terrorist attack on the landmarks of the city;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether pursuant to that input, any special arrangement for security of the strategic national wealth like Defence Research Centre, IIS, IIM, University/College campuses etc., apart from providing security to IT corporate houses were made;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) On December 28, 2005, when the delegates of the International Conference were coming out of the J.N. Tata Auditorium, there was a terrorist shootout in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in which Prof. M.C. Puri from Delhi was killed and four other delegates sustained injuries. Search of the complex by the Police led to recovery of one AK 56 rifle, 4 grenades and some ammunition.

(b) and (c) There were certain inputs available in May 2005 to suggest that Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) had plans to carry out attack on IT companies in Bangalore and the State Government was sensitized about these inputs.

(d) to (0 Subsequent to the incident, necessary steps have been taken to step up surveillance and strengthen security, wherever required, of scientific/research and other vital establishments.

Funding of militants through Hawala

355. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain money exchange offices based in the Meddle East are suspected to be involved in hawala operations to fund militants in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) if so, the number of persons so far arrested by the police for having funded the terrorist groups; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to stop such activities of these persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The arrest of a Dubai based engineer in Delhi on February 3,2006, and recovery of Rs. 55 lakh, RDX, Detonator, timer, etc. from him confirms the involvement of Middle East money exchangers in Hawala operations to fund militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Various agencies of the Central Government and the State Government are coordinating amongst themselves and taking necessary actions for tackling the menace of terrorist funding in all its dimensions. Apart from this the Government has constituted two Apex Level Committee, one at Central level and another at State level to check the inflow of funds to the terrorist/secessionist outfits in Jammu and Kashmir.

Denial of entry into India

356. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many people who got visas from Indian Missions abroad were not allowed to enter India and returned because the computer at the airport did not have their names;

(b) what action Government have taken in such cases because the visitors without any fault suffer mentally and financially; and

(c) what are the measures being adopted to avoid this in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There is no such requirement for immigration clearance that only those foreigners would be allowed entry whose names are fed in the computers at the international airports. However, as per available information, entry was refused to the following number of foreigners in last two years in the major international airports because their names figured in the 'negative list maintained by immigration authorities:

Number of Foreigners Refused Entry based on Negative List

International Airport	2003	2004
Delhi	31	27
Mumbai	17	20
Kolkata	00	01
Chennai	21	37
Amritsar	01	01
TOTAL	70	86

(b) and (c) Details of foreigners coming to adverse notice are circulated to Indian Mission/Posts abroad to that such persons may be refused visa at the time of application itself. However, for some reasons if such reports reach visa issuing authorities late and visa is issued in the meanwhile, check at the time of immigration prevents their entry into the country.

Assistance to Rajasthan for modernisation of police force

357. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has decided to enhance its assistance for modernization of police forces;

(b) if so, the details of assistance that is proposed to be given/has been given to Rajasthan under the above project during **the** current financial year;

(c) whether Centre also proposes to allocate some special grants/ package, in view of Rajasthan being a desert State, having a sensitive porous 1040 Km. long strategic international border with Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces has been revised by the Government in 2005-06. Under the revised scheme, the States have been re-categorized into category "A" and category"B" with 100%, and 75% Central funding respectively. The consequence of the re-categorization is that the total Central annual allocation has been enhanced to Rs. 1645.00 crore from Rs. 1400 crore in the previous year. However due to large unspent balance of Central funds from the previous years lying with the States, the budgetary allocation for the Scheme in 2005-06 is Rs. 900 crore. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 29.75 crore has been released (partly in cash and partly in kind) to the State Government of Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Rajasthan and Gujarat are being provided special assistance for desert policing.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

Training on Jungle Warfare in naxal affected States

†358. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has asked to train policemen in all the naxal affected States in "Jungle Warfare";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government will provide financial assistance to the States for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the 19th meeting of the Coordination Centre held in New Delhi on 13-01-2006 with the Chief

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Secretaries and DGPs of the naxal affected States, they were asked to take immediate steps for imparting training to the police personnel engaged in anti-naxaiite operation in Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare. For this purpose training facilities/expertise of CPOs are being made available to the naxal affected States.

(c) The expenditure incurred on training is covered under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme of the Central Government.

Investment in civil aviation sector by PIO

359. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has opposed the move to allow the Persons of Indian Origin to invest in civil aviation sector as has been allowed for NRIs;

(b) what are the reasons for raising objections by the Ministry when the other Ministries such as External Affairs, Overseas Indian Affairs, Consumer Affairs, Law and Justice and the Department of Economic Affairs of the Finance Ministry have agreed to the proposal;

(c) does it mean the Government is not equating PIOs with NRIs; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs, has in this case, pointed out that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 49% in the Civil Aviation sector has been pegged keeping in view the national security interests and the need to retain the ownership and management control of the sector in the hands of Indian, Civil Aviation being a sensitive sector. As of now, the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) are not Indian citizens. As such, the Ministry has not favoured grant of 100% FDI in this sector by PIOs from the security angle.

Fencing at Indo-Bangladesh Border

360. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fencing on India's border with Bangladesh is currently being undertaken;

(b) if so, the details of the project and its status so far;

(c) whether Government have received any objections to fencing from the Government of Bangladesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to resolve the objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOMEAFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has sanctioned construction of 3286 kms. of fence along Indo-Bangladesh border. Out of this 2129 kms. has been erected till 31st January, 2006.

(c) to (e) The Bangladesh Rifles has been objecting construction of border fence within 150 yards of the international border on the plea that construction of fence is a defensive structure. Secondly, it violates provisbns of Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities-1975. The Government of India has been trying persistently to convince Bangladesh Government that the erection of border fence does not violate the Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities-1975 as the border fence is mutually beneficial for both the countries in curbing trans-border crimes.

Pension to widows of freedom fighters

361. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the pension is not being given to widows of freedom fighters in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of proposals received from the State of Andhra Pradesh especially for giving pension to the widows of freedom fighters;

(d) the number of proposals cleared till now;

(e) the time by when all the requests are likely to be cleared; and

(f) the total number of widows getting freedom fighter pension in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Cases for transfer of dependent family pension to widows do not come to Government of India. The procedure for transfer of family pension in the name of eligible dependents (widow/widower, unmarried and unemployed daughters, mother and father) of deceased freedom fighter pensioners has been decentralized with effect from 01 - 05-1992. The Pension Disbursing Authorities (Public Sector Bank Branches and Government Treasuries) have been authorized to transfer dependent family pension to the eligible dependents at their level.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No statistics relating to the number of widows who are getting pension are maintained.

Extraordinary pattern of investments in districts/villages near Bangladesh borders

362. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the extra ordinary pattern of investments and in flow of funds in the districts and villages near the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) what is Government's assessment of such patterns have any linkage with Naxal groups and fundamentalist groups within and out of country been found in this respect;

(c) what steps are being taken to check and contain such trends; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Centra! and Concerned State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There are no reports to suggest extra ordinary patterns of investments and inflow of funds in the districts and villages near the India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh Border.

(b) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Arrests of terrorists from Hyderabad and West Bengal

363. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment's attention was drawn to the arrest of 3 Harkat-ul-Jehad terrorists from separate places in Hyderabad and West Bengal in December, 2005;

(b) if so, whether this reveals how Pak army and ISI are actively funding terrorism and India; and

(c) what are Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a)The Andhra Pradesh Government has informed that they have arrested some activists of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)/Harkat-ul-Jehad-AI-lslami (HUJUAI) including 2 from West Bengal in connection with the terrorist attack on the office of the STF, Hyderabad, on 12-10-2005.

(b) Available inputs suggest that the terrorist organizations operating in J&K and certain other parts of the country continue to be sponsored and provided resources including funds through the infrastructure of terror existing in Pakistan.

(c) To counter the menace of terrorism, the Government pursues a multi-dimensional approach to deal with terrorist activities. In order to curb such activities, the Government has taken measures which include strengthening of border management to check infiltration, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, ensuring improved technology, weaponry and

equipment of security forces both at the Centre and in the States, neutralizing plans of terrorist/anti-national elements by well coordinated intelligence based operations. Besides, the steps have also been taken to achieve bilateral/multilateral cooperation to deal with the menace of terrorism, given its global dimensions.

IRB jawans surrounded by Bodo militants

†364. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 500 Haryana police personnel inducted into Indian Reserve Battalion found themselves surrounded with Bodo militants in Dimapur forest of Assam in December, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of personnel killed or gone missing therein;

(c) the steps taken by Government for safe return of these personnel; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to counter Bodo militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOMEAFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) According to reports received from the Government of Assam, a skirmish took place on 23rd December 2005 between civilians and the jawans belonging to the Indian Reserve Police Battalion of Haryana traveling by Brahamputra Mail at Salakati Railway Station, Kokrajhar district in Assam following an allegation by some students that two girls students were molested in the compartment by the Haryana Police personnel. Later the Haryana Police personnel resorted to firing which resulted in death of four persons-two on the spot and one Haryana Police Personnel and another injured person succumbed to their injuries later in the hospital.

(c) Following steps have been taken by Government of Assam:

Institution of a judicial enquiry by a sitting High Court Judge.

Payment of compensation to the next of kin of the persons killed in the incident.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Railways have been requested to strengthen the security measures for women passengers traveling on trains.

(d) The Government policy is to hold dialogue, pursue socio-economic development programmes, modernize and strengthen the police/security forces and to tackle the activities of the militants with the held of forces to protect properties, limbs, and lives of innocent people. An agreement for Suspension of Operations (SOO) for one year w.e.f. 1st June 2005 has been signed between the Government of India, Government of Assam and the Bodo militant outfit, National Democratic Front of Bodoland.

Discussions with Naga insurgents

†365. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to some conditions in the discussions held with Naga insurgents in Bangkok recently; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government propose to accept the demand of Greater Nagaland of Naga insurgents?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Discussions with the leaders of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak/Muivah) in Bangkok centered around the question of extension of ceasefire, which was expiring on 31st January 2006. The ceasefire has been extended by another six months.

(b) The government's consistent view has been that any re-drawing of the boundaries of the States in the North East can only be done if there is a political consensus on the issue.

Violation of labour laws

†366. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some organizations and factories are violating labour laws as a result of which labourers are being exploited;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof for the last two years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the rules under which Government take action in this regard against guilty organizations and the names of organizations and factories against whom action has been taken during last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana

367. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts covered under Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) when the Scheme was started;

(c) whether it is also a tact that the Scheme has been closed down inspite of Andhra Pradesh's 34076.4 unorganized sector workers; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for closing down this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 was launched through Life Insurance Corporation of India on 01.07.2001. In Andhra Pradesh, the scheme was being implemented in four districts, namely, Guntur, East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna. The scheme has since been closed due to non-availability of Government funds.

Rehabilitation of bonded labourers

368. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about a hundred bonded labourers were rescued in Jharkhand in January last;

(b) the total number of bonded labourers rescued during 2005 and so far during 2006, State-wise; and

(c) the Central assistance given to the States, State-wise, for the rehabilitation of he bonded labourers so far during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. 196 bonded labourers have been identified & rehabilitated in January, 2005 in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Total number of Bonded labourers identified, rehabilitated and Central assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme to the States, State-wise during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given below:

Year	State		No. of bonded labourers identified and rehabilitated	Central assistance provided (in Rs. Lakhs)
2004-05		Bihar	281	28.10
	ii.	Madhya Pradesh Orissa	265 19	16.91
	iii.			1.90
	iv.v.	Uttar pradesh	41 64	4.05
		Karnataka		6.40
	vi.	Jharkhand	196	19.60
2005-06 up to 20.22006	i.	Bihar	141	14.10
	ii.	West Bengal	5 6	0.50
		Maharashtra		0.55
	iii.	Uttar Pradesh	149	15.00
	v. vi.	Madhya Pradesh	38 31	1.23
		Haryana		3.10

ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries

369. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the hospitals and dispensaries set up by the Employees State Insurance Corporation to provide medical facilities to labourers engaged in organized as well as unorganized sectors, separately;

(b) the names of the medical practitioners empanelled to provide outpatient service to labourers in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise; and

(c) the number of individuals/families provided medical service under ESI during the last three years, in various States, particularly Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The State wise details of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries is given in Statement-I (See *below).* The beneficiaries covered under ESI Scheme are provided medical care from these institutions as per provisions of ESI Act.

(b) The required information is at Statement—II (See below)

(c) The desired information is at Statement—III

Statement I

Details of ESI Hospitals & dispensaries

SI. No.	Name of state	Hospitals	Dispensaries
1	2	3	.4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	133
2.	Assam	1	27
3.	Bihar	3	25
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	1	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	11

1 2	3	4
6. Delhi	4	42
7. Goa	1	9
8. Gujarat	12	125
9. Haryana	05	70
10. Himachal Pradesh	01	9
11. Karnataka	09	122
12. Kerala	13	137
13. M.P.	07	47
14. Maharashtra	14	17 34 22
15. Meghalaya	—	1
16. Orissa	06	49
17. Pondicherry	01	15
18. Punjab	07	69
19. Rajasthan	05	64
20. Taminadu	09	187
21. Uttar Pradesh	16	129
22. Uttranchal	—	7
23. West Bengal	14	37
24. Jammu & Kashmir	—	8
25. Jharkhand	03	29
Tow.	143	1427

Statement II

Insurance Medical Services Particulars of Panel

Clinics (As on 02.02.2006)

Teleangana Region:

Sl. No.	Name of the Area & Distt. in which Panel Services implemented	With effect from	No. of IPs. attached/No of units as per Notification	Name of the Panel doctor and Address	Under the Jurisdiction of
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	GHATKESAR Ranga Reddy Distt.	1.11.2000	1472/21	Dr. V. Srinivas Rao Fiat No. 152, Picket Castle, Piket, Secunderabad	Joint Director Hyderabad
2.	WANAPARTHY Mehboobnagar Distt.	1.11.2000	804/43	Dr. N. Livingston, MBBS H. No. 20-123, Grace Nursing home, Wanaparthy, Mehboobnagar Distt.	Joint Director Hyderabad
3.	SHAMSHABAD Ranga Reddy Distt.	1.1.2001	1308/24	Dr. A.B. Prem Raj, Sai Sri Health Care, Name Complex, Siddeppa Rd. SHAMSHABAD 5012178	Joint Director Hyderabad
4.	SHAMEERPET Ranga Reddy Distt.	1.2.2001	2300	Dr. Mohd. Jahangir, MBBS 1/20/1Shameerpet-500014	Joint Director Hyderabad

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	GUNDLA-POCHAMPALLY R.R. Distt.	8.5.2003	1000	Dr. Satyanarayana Raju, MBBS, Kompally, Secunderabad	Joint Director Hyderabad
6.	SHADNAGAR Mahboobnagar Distt.	1.5.2004	1419/38	Dr. Ramesh Bhandari, MBBS, Abhishek Hospital, Gandhinagar Colony, Shadnagar, Mehboobnagar, Distt.	Joint Director Hyderabad
7.	KOHEDA/ANAZPUR Ranga Reddy Distt.	1.5.2004	7020/13	Dr. J. Bhalaiah, B.Sc. MBBS, Sri Raghvendra Clinic, Koheda R.R. Distt.	Joint Director Hyderabad
8.	CHITYALA Distt.	1.5.2000 Nalgonda	1455/28	Earlier Panel Doctor has resigned the JDIMS, Warangal has been requested to make substitute Panel arrangements	Joint Director Hyderabad
9.	JANAGOAN Distt.	1.9.2000 Warangal	713	Dr. P. Karunakar Raju, MBBS, H. No. 6-2-1/4,'X'Roads, JANAGAON-506175	Joint Director Hyderabad
10.	KHAMMAM Distt.	1.1.2001 Khammam	2694/139	Dr. Krishnamurthy, MBBS, DLO Subbaiah Memorial & ENT Clinic, Khammam	Joint Director Warangal

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	GODAVARIKHAM Karimnagar Distt.	1.5.2004	1183/14	Dr. D.V.R.K. Prasad, MD, Ramakrishna Prasad's Hospital, Reddy Complex, Laxminagar, Godavarikham, Karimnagar Distt.	Joint Director Warangal
12.	KARIMNAGAR Karimnagar Distt.	1.5.2004	1883/47	Dr. K. Prabhakar Reddy, MBBS, MS, II No. 3-1-293, Christian Colony, Karimnagar, Karimnagar Distt.	Joint Director Warangal
13.	MIRYALAGUDA Nalgonda Distt.	1.5.2004	1288/48	Dr. Ashok Kumar MBBS, MS, Sri Venkatakrishna Nursing Home, Opp. New Bus Stand Miryalguda, Nalgonda Distt.	Joint Director Warangal
14.	NALGONDA Nalgonda Distt.	1.5.2004	1654/60	Dr. B.Vijay Kumar, MBBS, H. No. 6-2-105/M, Ramgiri, Nalgonda Distt.	Joint Director Warangal
15.	PEDAKANDUKUR Nalgonda Distt.	1.2.2004	1654/60	Dr. Pratap Reddy, Sudha Nursing Home, Aleru, Nalgonda Distt.	Joint Director Warangal
16.	SURYAPET Nalgonda Distt.	1.5.2004	2200/72	Dr. Ramachandra, MBBS, MS, Sri Manikanta Nursing Home, KR Road, Suryapet, Nalgonda Distt.	Joint Director Warangal

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	TANDUR, RR Distt.	1.3.2005	605/37	Dr. M.V. Prabhakar, MBBS Tandur, Ranga Reddy Distt.	Joint Director, Hyderabad
18.	BORPATLA Hutnoor Mandal Medak Distt.	1.5.2005	2000/9	Dr. A. Pundarikam, MBBS Doulatabad, Visa Isnalkhanpet, Medak Distt.	Joint Director, Warangal
ANDHRA REGION					
1.	MANGALAGIRI Guntur Distt.	1.3.1988	1000	Dr. P. Adinarayana, MBBS, DLO, PGS, Nursing Home Station Road, Mangalagiri, Guntur Distt.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
2.	PALASA/ KASIBUGGA Srikakulam Distt.	1.2.1998	1841/49	The earlier doctor has resigned on 11.1.2005 and the Joint Director of Insurance Medical Services, Vijaywada has been requested to make substitute Panel arrangements.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
3.	ONGOL Prakasam Distt.	1.2.2000	1700/78	Dr. K. Shanti Priya, MD, Shanti Nursing Home, 1st Lane, Sundaraiah Bhavan Road, Ongol, Prakasham Distt.	Joint Director, Vijaywada

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	INKOLLU Prakasham Distt.	1.2.2000	1691/13	The earlier doctor has resigned and the Joint Director of Insurance Medical Services, Vijaywada has been requested to make substitute Panel arrangements.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
5.	PIDUGURALLA Guntur Distt.	1.4.2000	5775	Dr. K.V. Subha Rao, Vijaya Nursing Home, PIDUGURALLA, Guntur Distt.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
6.	ANAKAPALLI, Vishakpatnam	1.4.2000	1028/42	Dr. K.V. Ramanamurthy, Chaitanya Sonoscans and Maternity Hospital, Pudimadaka Road, Opp. to RTC Complex Anakapalli	Joint Director, Vijaywada
7.	NU2VID Krishana Distt.	1.9.2000	1918/33	Dr. C. Nageswara Rao, MBBS, Uma Nursing Home	Joint Director, Vijaywada
8.	RAJANAGRAM/ DEVANCHERU, EG Distt.	1.12.2000	540/8	Dr. K.V.R. Subrahmanayam, Rajahmundry, E.G. Distt.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
9.	RAJAM Srikakulam Distt.	1.1.2001	2365/18	Dr. B.B. Murlivardhanam, MBBS, D.O. Vijaya Nursing Home, Srikakulam Road, RAJAM-532127	Joint Director, Vijaywada

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	TENALI Guntur Distt.	1.2.2001	3163/104	Dr. A. Prabhakar Babu, MBBS, Prasanthi Clinic, Mulukunta Van Veedhi, T.B. Road, Tenali, Guntur Distt	Joint Director, Vijaywada
11.	ANAPARTHI/ DWARAPUDI EG Distt.	1.5.2004	1513/44	1. Dr. Swamalatha, MBBS, Padmavathi Nursing Home, Anaparthi, East Godavari Distt.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
12.	MANDAPETA	1.5.2004		2. Dr. B.T. Chowdary, MBBS, Subbarayayudi Memorial Nursing Home, Nalamvari Street, MANDAPETA, EG Distt.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
13.	GANAPAVARAM Guntur Distt.	1.5.2004	3537/39	Dr. M. Hanumanantha Rao, MBBS, DCH, Janaki Nursing Home, Chilakaluripet, Guntur Distt.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
14.	JAGGAMPETA East Godavari Distt.	1.5.2004	1042/35	DR. B. Satya Vara Prasad, MBBS, Sri Satya Deva Nursing Home, Main Road, Jaggampeta, East Godavari Distt.	Joint Director, Vijaywada
15.	VISAKHAPATAN Steel Plant	1.2.2006	6500/1	(1) Dr. K. Gopala Krishna, MBBS, Pedagantyada, Samatanagar, Vishakhapatnam (2) Dr. Manisha Singh, MBBS,	Joint Director, Vijaywada

1	2	3	4	5	6
				Q.NO.409-B/ Sector-VIII, Ukkunagaram, Vishakhapatnam (3) Dr. Kiranmai, TVAMBBS, Kiranamai Clinic, Dasapatrunipalem, Vishakhapatnam, (4) Dr. P. Murli Krishna, MBBS, Sri Krishnaveni Medicare, New Gajuwaka. (5) Dr. V. Krishna Murthy, MD, R.K. Hospital, Gajuwaka, Vishakhapatnam, (6) Dr. KVN Kishore MBBS, Kavya Clinic Kurumannapalem. (7) Gowathami Clinic Kurumannaipalem, Vishakhapatnam.	
		RAYALSEEMA REGION			
1.	YERRANGUNTLA	23.7.2002	508	Dr. D. Sivarama Reddy, MBBS, Yerraguntla, Cuddapah Distt.	Joint Director, Cuddapan

1	2	3	4	5		6	
2.	SRI KALAHASTHI	Already Chittoor Distt. Implemented, area, present panel doctor appointed on 18.2.2005	-	Dr. R Prameelamma, MBBS, 3-523, Nagari Street, SRI KALAHASTHI-517644 Chittoor Distt.	DGO	Joint Director, Cuddapah	
3.	TIRUMALA Chittoor Distt.	1.5.2005	1795/16	Dr. P. Ramaiah, MBBS, SV Clinic, 9/84, CB Road, Triumala, Chittoor Distt.		Joint Director, Cuddapah	

Statement-///

Number of workers & their families who were provided medical services in ESI Hospitals & Dispensaries during last three years.

SI. No.	Name of the State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		I Ps.	Families	IPs.	Families	IPs.	Families
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14,25,265	18,02,146	21,80,176	25,92,820	2074349	2601390
2.	Assam	33,686	31,713	36,488	34,775	42128	42804
3.	Bihar	57,765	44,361	67,068	46,528	48584	42332
4.	Chandigarh	87,143	56,733	80,761	48,546	73429	45018
5.	Delhi	16,64,290	24,44,111	18,15,184	26,39,721	1861867	2786630
6.	Goa	1,15,878	1,15,076	1,26,359	1,22,850	135100	145349
7.	Gujarat	11,88,084	15,61,687	13,80,060	19,20,667	1375622	193828
8.	Haryana	5,60,887	7,46,879	6,19,366	8,51267	632872	852521
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14,557	12,248	1,44,639	1,53,411	119118	140250
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	32,389	21,916	38,377	23,470	37944	16252
11.	Karnataka	10,39,877	11,90,926	10,38,935	11,65,544	973853	10,84,243
12.	Kerala	16,78,440	17.52,264	16,55,741	20,07,930	1892743	1741173
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8,45,213	10,96,047	7,51,719	9,39,243	710759	921615
14.	Maharashtra	10,85,386	10,77,248	9,69,090	9,73,748	715865	766766

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Meghalaya	2002	2,212	2,157	2,203	1792	1698
16.	Orissa	4,38,563	5,71,922	4,48,099	5,65,936	427744	516872
17.	Pondicherry	1.64,277	1,67,551	1,72,465	1,68,236	181266	163160
18.	Punjab	5,60,018	5,55,120	5,90,625	6,55,739	711963	719496
19.	Rajasthan	9,49,300	11,69,522	10,20,736	12,66,464	993120	1311232
20.	Tamil Nadu	26,97,734	33,54,723	21,23,125	24,26,378	2299931	3031872
21.	Uttar Pradesh	7,50,943	8,40,045	5,90,638	6,72,002	597136	739245
22.	West Bengal	-	-	11,40,410	9,06,538	940233	600729
23.	Chattisgarh	88,868	1,16,844	1,06,261	1,33,450	119126	144576
24.	Jharkhand	-	-	84,775	87,492	92533	96558
25.	Uttranchal	-	-	36,360	42,378	29044	36126

Less employment opportunity to increasing manpower

†370. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT, be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in overall employment has been less than that of man-power;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while employment is rising in the unorganized sector in contrast employment has shrunk in the organized sector; and

(c) if so, the approach and efforts of Government in this direction and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per the estimates available from the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, growth of labour force (1.03% per annum) was marginally more than growth of employment (0.98% per annum) during 1993-94 to 1999-2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan has laid emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention has been paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities, which have a large employment potential.

Low wages of agriculture labourers

371. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to assess the extent

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of poverty and hunger being suffered by millions of agriculture labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the wages paid to the agriculture labourers in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether prevalent practice of low wages in this sector is affecting agricultural production; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Planning Commission, though no separate survey has been made for agricultural laboureis, on the basis of the 55th round of the National Sample Survey conducted in 1999-2000,42.13 percent of agricultural labourers lived below the poverty line in the country.

(c) A statement indicating the rates of minimum wages for agricultural workers notified by the appropriate Governments both in State and Central Spheres under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is enclosed. (See below) Any wage above the statutory minimum wage is to be determined by the demand and supply condition in the market.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Daily Rates of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers Fixed by Different States/Union Territory Administrations under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

S. No.	Appropriate Governments	Minimum Wages for Unskilled Agricultural Workers (in rupees per day)
(1)	(?)	(3)
	Central Sphere States/UTs	102.78 to 114.78
1.	Andhra Pradesh	64.00 to 84.00 (as per zone)

(1) (2)	(3)
2. Arunachal Pradesh	55.00 (Area-I)
	57.00 (Area-ll)
3. Assam	69.00
4. Bihar	66.00
5. Chhattisgarh	52.87
6. Goa	94.00
7. Gujarat	50.00
8. Haryana	84.29 with meal
	88.29 without meal
9. Himachal Pradesh	65.00
10. Jammu & Kahsmir	66.00
11. Karnataka	56.48
12. Kerala	72.00 for light work
	125.00 for hard work
13. Madhya Pradesh	56.96
14. Maharashtra	Zone-I 51.00
	Zone-ll 49.00
	Zone-Ill 47.00
	Zone-IV 45.00
15. Manipur	72.40
16. Meghalaya	70.00
17. Mizoram	91.00
18. Nagaland	66.00
19. Orissa	52.50
20. Punjab	90.00
21. Rajasthan	73.00
22. Tamil Nadu	64.00
23. Tripura	50.00
24. Uttar Pradesh	58.00
25. Uttaranchal	73.00

(1)	(2)	(3)
26.	West Bengal	62 with meal 65 without meal
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	100.00 (Andaman) 107.00 (Nicobar)
28.	Chandigarh	114.00
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	89.00
30.	Delhi	125.80
31.	Pondicherry	
	Pondicherry	45.00 to 54.00 for 5 Hours
	Mahe Region	120.00 for light work (proposed for 8 Hours) 160.00 for hard work (proposed for 8 Hours)
	Yanam Region	55.00 to 75.00 for 6 HOUR
	Karaikal	45.00 to 54.00 for 5 Hours

Labour intensive industries being replaced by new industries

372. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that though the economy grew by over 20 percent during 1999 to 2003, employment grew only by 9.7 percent during the same period;

(b) if so, whether new industries are replacing labour intensive traditional industries; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase employment growth a par with economic growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per the available estimates, growth rate of Gross Domestic Product at constant prices during 1999-2000 was around 20.1%. The corresponding estimates of employment growth are not available.

(b) Since the initiation of the process of globalization and economic liberalization, some employment opportunities in the older type of enterprises might have been reduced due to declining efficiency but at the same time new employment opportunities are created in a number of new areas such as IT, Tourism, Financial Services etc.

" (c) A target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities was fixed for the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities will come from the normal growth of the economy assuming 8% per annum growth of Gross Domestic Product and remaining two crore will come from special employment generation programmes.

Trade Union rights to IT sector employees

373. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of people are employed in the Information Technology (IT) enterprises, namely Call Centres, BPOs, Software Development etc.;

(b) the State-wise details of such enterprises and number of persons employed therein, year-wise for the last three years, indicating their percentage *vis-d-vis* total workforce;

(c) whether the extant labour law/rules restrain the employees in IT sector from enjoying Trade Union (TU) rights;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are contemplating steps to facilitate exercising of TU rights by IT sector employees in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

, (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), employment in the Information Technology Services and Information Technology Enabled Services-BPO sector was 613000 in 2004-05.

(b) The ITES-BPO enterprises fall under the State Sphere. Hence, this kind of information is not centrally maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Trade Unions Act, 1926 is applicable to IT Sector employees in the country.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Rate of interest on EPF and PPF

374. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest on EPF for 2005-06 has been fixed at 8.5 per cent pa.;

(b) if so, the rate of interest fixed for PPF;

(c) why there is difference in the rate of interest in these two categories of provident funds; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce administrative expenditure on EPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified the rate of interest for the year 2005-06 @ 8.5%.

(b) The rate of interest on PPF was fixed at 8.0% for the year 2003-04 and since then the same rate of interest is being continued for the Financial Year 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(c) The two schemes are different in terms of the subscriber base, mechanism for deployment of proceeds, housing of the funds, payments to subscribers and risks associated therewith.

(d) All administrative expenditure is incurred judiciously in accordance with the instructions issued by the government from time to time and by observing standards of financial proprietary.

Rate of interest on EPF

375. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had finally decided to reduce the rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent for

the fiscal year 2005-06 as against only 8 per cent recommended by the EPF board;

(b) if so, what steps were taken to find additional resources to restore the EPF rate of interest to 9.5 per cent such as the Special Depository Scheme; if so, with what result; and

(c) the reaction and response to the Labour and workers' Organisations to this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Government has notified the rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund for the year 2005-06@ 8.5%.

(b) and (c) The interest rate of 8.5% has been declared after taking into consideration the earnings of the Employees Provident Fund for 2005-06 and certain other internal resources.

References/representations have been received from Labour Unions and their organizations, protesting against reduction of interest rate.

Dues on Corporate Houses in respect of EPF

376. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Employees Provident Fund arrears due to various corporates till date; and

(b) what special efforts are being made to recover the arrears from defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The amount of arrears outstanding as on 30.09.2005 was Rs. 2,429.97 crore.

(b) The actions taken against the defaulters include prosecution under Section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of movable/immovable property and arrest of defaulters.

Mechanism to review Employment Exchanges

377. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youth who have got employment in Andhra Pradesh from Employment Exchange in the last 3 years; and

(b) whether there is a mechanism to study and review the functioning of Employment Exchange across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Placements effected through the employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years are given below:

Year	Placements
2003	3924
2004	2921
2005	2122

(b) Yes, sir.

Reduction in EPFO interest rate

378. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the EPFO interest rate has been reduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for this reduction; and

(d) what is the impact of this on the service class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR **AND** EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to(d) Yes, Sir. Central Government, under Para 60(1) of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, have since notified the rate of interest @ 8.5% for the year 2005-06.

The earnings of Employees Provident Fund Organisation cannot sustain the demand of 9.5% rate of interest for the year 2005-06.

Youths registered in Employment Exchanges in A.P.

379. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of educated unemployed boys/girls registered in Employment Exchanges as on December, 31,2005 in the State of Andhra Pradesh and category-wise;

(b) the break-up of boys/girls who got employment through different Employment Exchanges during each of the last three years;

(c) since when the listed unemployed registered in different Employment Exchanges have been waiting; and

(d) the details of fresh schemes being prepared by Government to provide them with employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU). (a) Education level-wise and gender-wise distribution of educated (10th Standard & above) jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered in the employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh as on 31-12-2005 is given in the enclosed Statement (see below).

(b) Gender-wise placements effected through the employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh during 2003,2004 and 2005 were as given below:

Placement effected

Year	Male	Female	Total
2003	2547	1377	3924
2004	2119	802	2921
2005	1456	666	2122

(c) Waiting period for the jobseekers varies from occupation to occupation depending on the local labour market condition and no average picture for the waiting time can be drawn.

(d) A target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities was fixed for the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities will come from the normal growth of the economy assuming

8% per annum growth of Gross Domestic Product and remaining two crore will come from special employment generation programmes.

Statement

Number of educated jobseekers (10th standard and above) on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh as on 31-12-2005

CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
SSC	656373	229099	885472
INTER	283658	102546	386204
GRADUATES	214910	75349	290259
TYPIST/STENOS	89831	58665	148496
DIPLOMA HOLDERS	41948	9911	51859
ITI	170012	8786	178798
TEACHERS	46747	26549	73296
OTHER EDUCATION	62771	47152	109923
UNSKILLED	130701	36102	166803
POSTGRADUATES	65536	19367	84903
TOTAL	1762487	613526	2376013

Review of labour laws

†380. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing labour laws are not in consonance with today's need;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether in view of increasing industrial disputes and industrial development, Government propose to review the said labour laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the review work is likely to be completed?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Review/ updation of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs. Efforts are made to make the required changes in the labour laws by the Government after detailed consultations with the social partners with a view to harmonize the interests of all stakeholders.

Projects awaiting sanction by CAPART

381. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that more than 800 project sent by NGOs in Tamil Nadu to Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) have been pending sanction for a long time;

(b)if so, the details of the projects proposals and the reasons therefor; and

(c)when decision is likely to be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) 120 project proposals sent by NGOs from Tamilnadu are pending for sanction in CAPART as on 13.2.2006. The details of these project proposals together with the reasons for pendency are indicated in the Annexure See Appendix 207, Annexure No. 1. Decision on these pending projects will be taken after completion of required formalities.

Lowering of interest rates for SHGs.

382. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether his Ministry approached sometime back the Ministry of Finance to lower the interest rates for the Self-Help Groups of the poor engaged in the activities of economic upliftment;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)The Finance Ministry's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Ministry of Finance was informed that the present rate of 10-12% charged on loans advanced to the Self-Help Groups under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yozana (SGSY) is higher. As the scheme specifically targets the BPL population in rural areas, Ministry of Finance was requested to look into the matter and take appropriate initiative to peg the interest rate within a band of 4-6%.

(c) Ministry of Finance informed that the interest rate regime has been deregulated and the individual banks are free to fix a rate of interest on their lending depending on the cost of the funds and the risks involved in such lending. It also informed that the Government on its part has been regularly advising the Banks to keep the interest as low as 9%for rural and agricultural loans amounts up to Rs. 50,000/-. Ministry of Finance have also highlighted the fact that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines provide that the loans up to Rs. 2,00,000/-should not be above Benchmark Prime Lending Rate and NABARD extends refinance to Banks at the rate of 5.5% for loans up to Rs. 50,000/- and 6.25% for loans above Rs. 50,000/- under SGSY.

National Land Records Development Mission

383. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up National Land Records Development Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Process to set up a Mission to look after computerization of land records and integrate them